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NIPIGON TO WINNIPEG

A CANOE VOYAGE
THROUGH WESTERN ONTARIO
BY EDWARD UMFREVILLE IN 1784.

WITH EXTRACTS FROM
THE WRITINGS OF OTHER EARLY TRAVELLERS
THROUGH THE REGION

R. DOUGLAS
OTTAWA, CANADA.
1929

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INTRODUCTION

The romance of the fur trade in Ontario has yet to be written The material at the historian's disposal is scanty. Trading posts and traders were numerous, but the traders themselves, both during the French regime and under the succeeding British rule, have left few records of the successes they achieved and the hardships they endured.

Of the known fur-traders' narratives, there is none for whose detail the future historian will be more thankful than that of Edward Umfreville, which is now published for the first time. It describes a journey made by canoe in 1784 through western Ontario from Pays Plat, lake Superior, to portage de l'Ile, Winnipeg river. The voyage was not a trading venture, but was an exploratory one, made by direction of the North West Company.

By the treaty of peace entered into in September, 1783, between Great Britain and the United States, Grand Portage was placed in the United States and it devolved upon the British fur traders to seek new headquarters on lake Superior. A year and a month later, Benjamin and Joseph Frobisher memorialized Governor Haldimand that the North West Company, of which they were directors,

> being apprehensive the United States would avail themselves of every means in their power to dispossess them of their Trade to the North West, from being entitled to an equal if not an exclusive right to the Grand Portage on Lake Superior and the water communication to the extent of Lake du Bois: Have at their own expense and with the approbation of your Excellency sent off from the North side of Lake Superior in the month of June last, Two persons on whom they can depend accompanied

288260

by six Canadians, to attempt the discovery of another passage, north of the line of Boundary to the River Ouinipique, and from the information your Memoralists have since received from them, they have every reason to expect this passage, so much to be wished for, will be discovered and found practicable; which will effectually secure that valuable branch of the Fur trade to this Province. (1)

In a letter accompanying the memorial, the Frobishers state that

early in June last, they actually sent off from the North side or Lake Superior a Canoe with Provisions only, navigated by six Canadians under the direction of Mr. Edward Umfreville, who has been Eleven Years in the Service of the Hudson's Bay Company and Mr. Venance St Germain; both of them men who speak the Language of the Natives and who are in other respects very well qualified to execute the Company's intentions.

Their Instructions were to proceed to Lake Alempigon and thence in a West direction by the best Road for the Transportation of Goods in Canoes to the River Ouinipique at, or as near as may be to the Portage de l'Isle, and by Letters receivd from them at Lake Alempigon 30th June, it appears they had met with innumerable difficulties from the want of Indian Guides, but they had then one who had undertaken to conduct them to Lake Eturgeon and they express'd the most sanguine hopes of getting forward from thence to the River Ouinipique. The Company have no accounts of them since that period, and as all their Canoes are now returned from the Grand Portage, they cannot until the next year give your Excellency any further information concerning this discovery. (2)

It is an account of the voyage referred to in this memorial that is now printed.

Edward Umfreville, the writer, is the author of "*The Present State of Hudson Bay*" published in London in 1790. We know

(1) Can. Arch. Rep. 1890, p. 48.
(2) Can. Arch. Rep. 1890. p. 51.

no more of him to-day than he tells us in that book. The name Umfreville would indicate that he was descended from that great family which accompanied William the Conqueror from Normandy to England and of whom "Robert with the Beard" was given in 1076 "the forest valley and lordship of Redesdale in Northumberland to hold by the service of defending that part of the realm for ever against enemies and wolves with the sword which King William had by his side when he entered Northumberland."

In the "Prefatory Advertisement" to "*The Present State of Hudson Bay*", Umfreville writes as follows:—

> In the year 1771, I entered into the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, in the capacity of writer, at the salary of fifteen pounds a year; and continued in that employ eleven years. But two of their principal settlements being taken by the French in 1782, when I was made prisoner, and, upon their restoration, to the Company some disagreement arising in point of salary, I quitted their service. Being thus disengaged, in April, 1783, I made a voyage to Quebec with a view of acquiring a knowledge of the manner in which the Fur trade was carried on from that quarter and here I remained for four years".

From other autobiographical references, it is clear that he was first stationed at York factory and that he resided there eight years though not consecutively. The journal now published indicates he had resided at Severn. Possibly also he was at Moose factory and he may have visited Churchill though he does not speak of Samuel Hearne, who was governor there from 1775 as if he knew him personally, nor does Hearne refer to Umfreville as an acquaintance. He was at York in August, 1782, when it was captured by La Perouse and the garrison taken prisoners to France. By October, says Miss Laut(3) the Hudson's Bay Company had received letters from the prison at Dinan Castle, France, asking for the ransom of the men. By May 1783 the ransomed men were in London and by June back

(3) Conquest of Great Northwest I., p. 386.

at their posts in the bay — all except Umfreville. To quote his own words, again:—

> In June 1783, I landed at Quebec; and in May 1784, I left the city of Montreal to penetrate into the interor parts..... In about one month we arrived at the falls of St. Mary..... As the fur-merchants in Canada began to be alarmed this year on account of the partition line established by the late peace, apprehending that the key of the interior country, situated on the bottom of lake Superior, would thereby fall within the American boundary, I was pitched upon to pursue an unknown tract in order to explore another passage into the interior country independant of the old one known by the name of the Great Carrying-Place. I accordingly sat out for that purpose and succeeded in my expedition much to the satisfaction of the merchants; but as the Americans have not yet been able to obtain possession of the western posts on the lakes, ceded to them by the late peace, the traders still continue the old route".

Umfreville's journal is dated Lac du Bois, 31 July, 1784. Whether he proceeded from lake of the Woods to Grand Portage is not stated. If he did, he was soon on his way west again for he "passed the winter of the years 1784, 1785, 1786 and 1787" for the North West Company at Umfreville House on the North Saskatchewan river in Sec. 4. Tp 53,R.25,W.3rd. (4). On 14 May, 1788 he left his wintering ground, on 8 July he reached Grand Portage and on 15 September, Montreal. Ten days later he left for New York, which he reached on 10 October, whence presumably he sailed for England. The preface to "*The Present State of Hudson Bay*" is dated 17 June, 1789 and the book was published in 1790. A journal for 1804 dealing with Rainy lake district mentions a clerk called "Young Umpherville", no doubt a son.

The manuscript of Umfreville's journal is among the Masson papers preserved in McGill University, Montreal and is not unknown to

(4) Tyrrell's Thompson p. LXXIX.

historians. That it has not been published before, can be attributed to the lack of accurate maps of the region on which the explorer's route could be followed. Even yet, his course between lake Nipigon and Sturgeon lake has not been mapped completely. Its detail, also, has been against it, but, being intended for the guidance of future travellers, Umfreville's journal was of necessity circumstantial. As such, it is in striking contrast to the elusive narrative of John Long, who traded west of lake Nipigon eight years before Umfreville and to the disappointingly brief account of Daniel Harmon, who spent a year for his health's sake, west of lake Nipigon, twenty three years after Umfreville. Umfreville's journal throws light on their movements and indicates, what otherwise we would not be sure of, that their route west ward from lake Nipigon was identical with the one which he followed.

Umfreville's starting point was an island off Pays Plat river. Shallows and swamps make the mouth of the river an unsuitable camping ground. Alex Henry, the elder, in 1775, also "encamped on an island apposite the Pays Plat". However, the site of the North West Co's post was not on an island, nor in the bay into which Pays Plat river empties. As shown by Geological Survey map No. 78, prepared by Dr. Robert Bell in 1869, it was situated in the next bay east, about five miles beyond Rossport. The same map shows a Hudson's Bay Co post near Rossport.

Umfreville passes without mention the site of the French post said by Alex Henry, 1775, to have existed at the mouth of Nipigon river.

For almost 100 years after Father Allouez visited lake Nipigon in 1667, the French held undisputed sway on it and, latterly at any rate, there was a constant stream of traders to it. Umfreville mentions the location of two French posts on the west shore of the lake. We only know of the building of one post on the lake, that of Latourette, which Duluth, September, 1684 refers to as "the fort which I have constructed near the river à La Maune at the bottom of lake Alemipigon" (5) If the expression "bottom of the bay" is to be taken

(5) "Forts and Trading Posts in Labrador Peninsula", Ottawa, 1926.

literally, the post could hardly be one of those mentioned by Umfreville. The position of Fort Latourette on such maps as that of Jaillot 1685 has suggested it was somewhere in Ombabika bay, at the northeast end of the lake. The purpose of the fort was to attract the Indians who were accustomed to travel east down the Albany and its tributaries to Hudson bay. Two streams lead over a low height of land from Ombabika bay to Albany river, namely Ombabika river and Kabasakkandagasing or Little Jackfish river. Either of these may be the river La Maune. At the mouth of Little Jackfish river a Revillon Frères trading post is shown on Geological Survey map No. 1090 published in 1910. Near the junction of the Ombabika bay canoe route with the Albany river is a "lac à la Carpe" [Nemeiben lake] with a good fishery, which may be that on which a fort was built in 1752 (5) Latourette and La Maune are titles of Duluth's brother who is mentioned in a letter of 1687 as having recently arrived in Montreal from the rivers above the lake.

There is also communication with the Albany from Wabinosh bay at the northwest end of the lake. Traces of an old post have been found on Rocky Island lake near the head of Wabinosh river.

It is in or near Wabinosh bay that Fort Duncan, the North West Co. post mentioned by Harmon seems to have been situated. A comparison of Harmon's narrative with that of Umfreville leads to this conclusion, although the only maps known to us to show a North West Co. post on lake Nipigon locate it near the outlet (6). Maps of the 1860's, including that of Dr. R. Bell published in 1869 show Hudson's Bay Co. posts in Wabinosh bay and at Poplar point on the east shore of the lake in addition to the then main establishment at its present site on the west shore.

Umfreville's party consisted of Umfreville himself, his contremaître or foreman Venance St. Germain who also kept a diary, and six men, including Jean Roy, Dubay and Raymond the steersman, St. Germain may be the Ven. St. Germain with whom Alex. Henry,

(6) Map showing "the principal trading stations of the North West Co. "published in London, 1817 and reproduced in Davidson's "North West Co." and map issued with British blue-book, 1819.

the younger, hunted buffalo at Pembina River post on 30 September, 1801.

Umfreville also mentions several traders, Mr. Coté, Mr. Grant Mr. James, Mr. Lyons and Mr. Roy.

Mr. Coté would be Gabriel Cotté (7), as he spelled his name, who was one of the founders of the Beaver Club and give his name to Coté Street, Montreal. He was twice married — at Makinac on 18 August, 1765 and at Montreal on 29 December 1783 to Angélique Blondeau, daughter of a bourgeois. Cotté died in Montreal aged 55 and was buried 7 February 1794. He had four children by his first wife and five by his second. He left a fortune for the time. Daughters married Alexis Laframboise, Jules Maurice Quesnel and François Antoine Larocque all well-known fur-traders. In 1778 and later years, Cotté had permits to send canoes to Nipigon.

The Grants who were fur-traders in Umfreville's time were legion. Peter Grant joined the North-West Co. with Umfreville, but being only 20 years of age, would be hardly likely to proffer him advice regarding spirituous liquors as mentioned on page 42. A "Mr. Grant" established Pine fort on Assiniboine river, Manitoba in 1784.

Benjamin Lyons, merchant, resided at Makinac in 1778 (8).

David Thompson met two Roys in the West in 1798, one on Churchill river and the other on upper Red river..

Umfreville's success in reaching Winnipeg river was highly gratifying to the North West Co. He himself recognized that luck had favoured him on the trip:—

> Circumstanced as we were, in an extensive country, unacquainted without a guide, the voyage has been completed very fortunately and had we not met with a conductor when we did, the voyage must have miscarried.

(7) Information from E. Z. Massicotte, Montreal.
(8) Cruikshank in Canadian Institute Transactions III, 1891-92 p. 270

Umfreville's own opinion of the route, given in a concluding note to his journal was a favourable one:—

> The course we have followed seems not only to be very practicable but preferable to the course by the Grand Portage. Though we have been a considerable time on the journey, it is no objection, as I compute we have lost by bad weather and other casualties, at least twelve or thirteen days and it is my sincere opinion that a stirring guide, something like Bazil Ireland would complete the whole in three weeks. The good fishing places are numerous and wild rice may be bartered from the Indians. I know not one carrying place all the way that can absolutely be called bad—the worst is the Grand Côte de Roche —and the rivers in general are not remarkable for strong currents.

The North West Company's opinion expressed eight years later was an adverse one. In urging Governor Simcoe to support a revision of the treaty of 1783, they claim that if Grand Portage is forbidden them, the only route remaining. "as the treaty now stands is by a river "about 48 leagues on this side the Grand Portage, falling into lake "Superior, called Nipigon or in some maps Alemipigon river. When "news of the last peace reached this country and an immediate de- "livery of the posts was apprehended, the route by this river [Nipigon] "was explored in order to ascertain how far it was practicable. The "result was that nothing but the most extreme necessity could ever make "it be resorted to as a communicaton to the North West".

The letter points out that from the mouth of Nipigon river to portage de l'Ile by way of lake Nipigon is a journey of 286 leagues with 72 carrying places in contrast to a distance of 214 leagues with only 26 carrying places by way of the Grand Portage, meaning a difference of three or four weeks in time.

The letter also explains that the Nipigon route portages were only suitable for small canoes and worst of all, the small birch bark canoes necessary to penetrate into the Northwest were only obtainable at Rainy lake, there being no bark nor Indian builders elsewhere. (9)

There was no revision of the treaty, but the British traders were able to retain their headquarters at Grand Portage for seventeeen years after Umfreville's voyage. Then, the United States Government announced its intention to tax their merchandise and reluctantly a move was made from both Grand Portage and the Grand Portage route. (10) It was not, however, to Nipigon and Umfreville's route, but to Fort William and the old Kaministikwia river route, strangely forgotten, but rediscovered in 1798.

The usefulness of his route aside, Umfreville's voyage was highly creditable to a newcomer to an unmapped country, who had to trust to chance for guides through its maze of waterways, and it is doubtful if a modern traveller with the best of maps could have brought it to a more speedy and successful conclusion.

In the year 1784 there were no posts in occupation at any of the lakes on Umfreville's route from start to finish. West of lake Nipigon he notices the sites of former trading houses on Shikag lake, Sturgeon lake and lac Seul. Before this time, as John Long informs us, independent traders had wintered also on Minnitaki lake and Tide lake — Shaw at Minnitaki lake in 1777-78 and Long himself at Tide lake in 1778-79. Harmon mentions North West Co. posts at Sturgeon lake and lake Minnitaki in 1808-09 and the same company had a post on Tide lake in 1820-21. After the coalition, the Hudson's Bay Co. occupied posts on all the lakes mentioned except Shikag lake.

MAPS SHOWING UMFREVILLE'S ROUTE

Lake Nipigon sheet, English River sheet and Rainy River sheet, on the scale of 8 miles to one inch, published by the Department of Interior, Ottawa or

(9) Can.-Arch. Q. 278, pp. 146-162
(10) Bigsby "Shoe and Canoe" II p. 240.

Maps 23a and 24a, on the scale of 8 miles to one inch, published by the Department of Lands, Toronto.

Portions of the route are shown with greater detail on the following maps:—

Lac Seul sheet and Pointe du Bois sheet, on a scale of 4 miles to one inch, published by Topographical Survey, Ottawa and Lake Nipigon sheet 1090 and Ignace sheet 663 on a scale of 4 miles to one inch, published by the Geological Survey, Ottawa.

R. Douglas

PAYS PLAT TO WABINOSH LAKE

Wednesday, 16 *June*. At 11 a.m. parted company with Mr. Grant, having an Indian guide to pilot us to lake Nippigon. First course from the east end of an island at the mouth of the river Pais Plat to a point N.W. by W. 3 miles. W. by N. 9 miles to a creek called by the Indians Na-ab-be-cow (1), then..... commencement of river Nippigon and both shores run pretty regular N. and S. An island lays off the mouth of the river, distant about 2 miles. Both shores are perpendicular and rocky and the river is about 1 mile wide.

Thursday, 17 *June*. We had proceeded but a short distance this day before we found the river very shallow, not having above two foot water in several places, but the bottom is sandy and current gentle.....the river appears to be entirely closed by woods, but on a nearer approach a passage opens between a high sandy bank and the point of an islet N.N.W. ¼ mile; shoaly on the east side and stony bottom and strong current. Passed on the west or left side; then a rapid, stony and shoaly. Here the men debarked and led the canoe. This rapid is about ½ mile long. Passed it with perches on the left side. Then an easy current for about 100 yards Then came to a rapid point which sent us on the other side of the river. Then about 40 yards to a point, after which the river opens wide or is rather a small lake [Helen lake]. Here our guide said sturgeon were plentiful. Went in this lake N.N.W. 3 miles to a point. From hence the main branch of the river bore north. Left it on the right hand and entered the lesser branch. . . . Passed a small creek which empties itself on the west side with a waterfall, then N. ½ mile to the portage de Roche Capitaine. Carried over goods and passed the canoe with perches and tracking line of about 50 yards in length; the portage on the right hand side of the river.

(1) Naomikan creek, 1½ miles east of Gravel river.

. . . We then left the river on our right hand and entered a small creek which opens south. Went in about 1½ miles north and then arrived at the first Grand portage [Long portage] mentioned by Mr. Lyons of about 4 miles in length. The road is very good, but it took us about 7 hours in passing our things over.

Friday, 18 *June*. Left the end of the portage and went north per compass in a fine wide opening about 2 miles, two islands appearing at the end of the course. I found a sudden variation of the compass here of six points for, when we had turned a point, we were still going north per compass, so that I imagine the magnetic needle must be affected by some mineral ore in the earth. . . The portage d'Islet [Island portage] 200 yards over; portage on the west side, road tolerable. From hence portage Roché [Split-rock portage] is in a direct line N. by E. ½ mile over an islet in the middle of the river, a waterfall on each side. This portage is 50 yards over and good road. From hence second Grand portage [Pine portage] lies N.E. by N. ½ mile; portage on west side and 3 miles long. We were not able to pass the whole of our baggage over this night, though it was but 11 o'clock when we began and half after 8 when we gave over. This carrying place is much incommoded with windfall trees, but they might be soon cleared away by a few men with hatchets.

Saturday, 19 *June*. Brought the remainder of the things over the portage and the Indians left at Pais Plat overtook us. First course N. by E. 1 mile to a rapid [White chute] which runs out of a lake [Emma lake] (2) with great violence. It requires some judgment to pass it properly, as the water is thrown very forcibly against the opposite shore and returns back with equal velocity. This opening bore west about 30 yards but we kept our course N. 1 mile round a point to portage Plat [Flat-rock portage]. This is 180 yards over and very good road. Then N. 1½ miles into a fine spacious opening. The Indians that had been absent from us about half an hour had killed several fine jackfish on our arrival. They say they

(2) The names of the lake expansions of Nipigon river namely Helen lake, Jessie lake, Maria lake and Emma lake, as well as Hannah lake were given by Dr. Robert Bell of the Geological Survey in 1869.

are very numerous here in all the little bays. From hence N.W. by N. 1 mile to the end of a bay. Left the river on our right hand and entered a small creek, very shallow in places and stones above water. Much care must be taken of the canoes here, especially if large ones. Went in for about 1 mile N. and then entered a small lake [Hannah lake]; course in it N.N.W. 1 mile N.W. by W. 4 miles to a portage called by the Indians Shoce-co-wap-pe-cau Win-ne-cum, (3) but not mentioned in Mr. Lyons' account; about 1½ miles over, the greatest part of the road very good, at the end of which is lac Nippigon.

Sunday, 20 June. The Indians that engaged to pilot us to Fort Nippigon (4) wanted payment here and were desirous to leave us, but I was resolved to deny this to the last till their agreement was completed. They tried several Indian fetches to raise a drink but as they found we were determined to keep our word, they consented to accompany us. We made some small presents to a few left behind and proceeded on a course N.W. by N. between two islands which appear from the end of the portage, 14 miles to a point [Smoke point or Poplar point]. Before this course was completed we met a family of Indians in two canoes (5). The man remembered seeing me at Severn Fort on the coast of Hudson's Bay. He belongs to Sturgeon lake and has agreed to pilot us to portage de l'Isle. Proceeded with him a few miles when we were stopped by thunder, wind and rain. He pretends he has a son hereabouts whom

(3) Big Flat-rock portage. Joshkwanabika — there is a flat smooth broad rock, Onigam — portage (Baraga). In a concluding note to his journal, Umfreville states that — "The portages are all called by names given them by the guide and where he has known none, it is always mentioned by whom the new name was given. As to my Indian information I refer you to Mr. St Germaine, who is a much better master of the Indian language hereabouts. I endeavoured to obtain the French names which I thought of more consequence to the voyageurs".

(4) The only forts mentioned by Umfreville are the old French houses on the west side of the lake.

(5) In a concluding note, Umfreville states that "The Indians we met on the way were very few compared to the distances but it was a time of year when the major part were hunting. Those we did meet we found very well disposed and they left us on terms of friendship, but we found it very necessary to inform them with the intention of our voyage without any disguise. This hindered any jealousy or unfavourable surmises from taking place and they were inquisitive to know if we intended to return this way next spring as a chief told me his journey to Hudson's bay would thereby be prevented

he must see before he can go with us. He proposes to set off to-morrow morning and return about 2 o'clock. We parted company with our first guides entirely satisfied with each other.

Monday, 21 *June*. Several Indians came to us yesterday afternoon which proved very rainy and stormy with thunder and lightning. The Indians were very troublesome for a drink, a little of which was given them. Our guide told us flatly this morning he would not go with us, but on our setting off with another he soon followed us. Proceeded from the pointmentioned yesterday across a bay N.N.W. 3 miles, then N.W. by N. to a point, across another bay 4 miles but intead of crossing it entirely we turned round a point in the middle of it. This leads into an opening like a river [between St. Paul island and the mainland]. First course in it is W.S.W. 1½ miles then W. by N. 1 mile W. N.W. 1 mile which opens into lake, then west 3 miles to the north end of the first island which appears from the south shore, then W. by N. 6 miles between several islands to a rocky point [Ingall point]. Here we slept. It is necessary to remark that a young guide ought to be provided with a compass in this lake, as it is full of islands which form as many openings.

Tuesday, 22 *June*. This day it blew so hard westerly that we could not proceed. The men were employed putting the canoe in better trim for the carrying places. The ribs and timbers were all taken out, washed and made smaller, so that now she is considerably lighter. The guide is very wavering in his opinion; he this day told us he must be obliged to leave us, on account of his wife's sickness, though she was equally bad when he first engaged. Every reasonable promise is made to him to persuade him to continue the journey, but Indians will be Indians to the last of the chapter. We tried for fish in the lac, but the meshes of the nets are too large.

Wednesday, 23 *June*. From the rocky point mentioned the day before yesterday, we proceeded W.N.W. to the south end of an island 2½ miles, at the end of which lays a small rocky island, a short distance off. Went between them, then N.W. 1 mile to point of an island, then N.W. by W. 3 miles to the point of another island of high

land. Coasted along the end of this island 1½ miles N.W., then to a point [Champlain point] across a bay N.W. by N. 6 miles. In the middle of this course we were obliged to put back and encamp on account of wind and here our guide gave a fresh determination that he would proceed no farther. Yesterday he came into our tent and gave us an account of the carrying places to portage de l'Isle, which he made amount to sixty-six besides six lakes, for which favour he requested a drink, a little of which was given him; but my gentlemen afterwards grew so violently outrageous, as to threaten destruction to everything about him, by turns flattering, threatening and then endeavouring to thieve and break the canoes. Though the fairest promises and kindest usage has been given this man, it is all to no purpose, for at the very instant I was writing the above, one of our men has brought an account of his having found a nine gallon keg half-full of mixed liquor in the woods, which he found means to steal though a sharp lookout is kept. I enticed the father and son to the place, by telling them I had found the fresh track of a moose. They came very unsuspectingly to the place, but how great was his surprise when I showed him the keg of liquor. After upbraiding him with his perfidy, I obliged the father to carry it back to our baggage, and as to the son he took to the woods and was heard of no more for several hours. We were soon afterwards outwardly good friends, but experience says no confidence can be put in this villain.

Thursday, 24 June. The continuance of the wind prevented us from proceeding this day before it was late in the afternoon, when we set off, our Indian guide in command. Finished the last course mentioned yesterday at the end of which passed the point [Champlain point] leaving a small island on our right. After turning the point, we went W. by N. 3 miles to a place where a settlement has formerly been erected (6), but no traces are now to be seen of it except the wood being cut away. Here the dilatory proceedings

(6) Umfreville is still south of Kaiashk bay.

of the guide obliged us to encamp. Latitude observed 49° 42'. (8) The knavery of the Indian together with the continual deceit he has practised on us, determined us to go on without him, especially as the number of his family lays very heavy on our provisions. Finding us thus resolved, he prayed to be employed, but we told him this could not be done, unless he would promise most faithfully to be good and honest. On this condition, we promised him every kindness and good payment and, on the contrary, told him he must leave us without payment in goods, but a severe payment in stripes. He promised everything we could desire. How long he may keep his word, time must determine, but nothing but absolute necessity would induce a person to have anything to do with a man possessed of every bad quality, and whose mind is as black as his outward skin.

Friday, 25 June. From the old French house north to a point on the main shore 4 miles. Passed two islands on our right and a small river on the left. From hence across a bay to a lofty peak of perpendicular rocks [Undercliff island] N. by E. 7 miles. Several islands in the bay on our left and high mountainous lands. From the peak 3½ miles N.N.E. to a point; several islands on our right. Passed another place where a house had formerly been erected. From the peak we entered a strait about ½ mile wide; island [Dog island] on the right, the main on the left. From the end of last course the lake opens wide, a remarkable round island of high land [Jack fish island] appearing in the front of the strait. Then rounded the point to the south point of an island, N.W. 1½ miles leaving many islands on our right, N.N.W. 1 mile to a point on the main, then north 2 miles across a bay, [English bay] passing very near an island on our right, then round the point and along a steep rocky shore N.W. 4 miles to the west end of an island very high and shaped like a barn [Inner Barn island]. Here we met with a tent of Indians one of whom we intended to engage as a pilot, but they

(8) In a concluding note, Umfreville states that "the reason that so few observations have been made with the quadrant was for want of proper places to make them in. It is true we have been in lakes large enough but the horizon was generally obscured by islands or clouds at the proper time of day and could not make an artificial horizon for want of quicksilver. I am in hopes these obstacles will be removed in lac Ouinipque, etc."

were unacquainted with the road. We made them a small present of tobacco, powder and shot and departed. Opposite to this point N.W. by N. 3 miles at the bottom of a bay (10) [Wabinosh bay] lays the beginning of the river we have to enter. Three pointed mountains lay on the left near its entrance. First course in the river N.W. by W. ½ mile strong current and about 60 yards wide. Then N.W. ¼ mile to the portage le Petit Jour, 280 yards over a good road. At the bottom of this rapid, plenty of fish may be taken. Then N.W. by N. ½ mile strong current, small rapid and stones above water and shoaly in places. The men debarked and led canoe up the middle of it. At the end of this course the river opens wide forming a small lake, [Wabinosh lake] then N.W. 1 mile to a point. The Indians we left followed us with their families and baggage.

(10) French translation of the Indian name Wabinosh which means "daybreak" dawning day". Possibly Wabinosh bay and lake were the headquarters of Petit Jour (Wabinosh) the Cree Chief of lake Nipigon who gave Verendrye information about routes to the west as related in his report from Nipigon post in 1730.

WABINOSH LAKE TO STURGEON LAKE

Saturday, 26 *June*, The Indians here offered us a few skins to trade and they would have been displeased had we denied it. These with a few got from the guide amounts to eight otters, one peccant, two beaver, two cub beaver, three martins and two mink. Nothing was done this day, but making a net (11) with smaller meshes. The distress we are in for a guide is very great. This fellow possesses all the duplicity of the devil himself. One day he knows our way better than any Indian in the country; the next day he knows nothing about it, at one time he is ready to do us any service, and soon after he will threaten our lives; but our situation is such, we must accept of him or give up the journey.

Sunday, 27 *June*. The guide said this morning he would go with us no farther, so that we resolved to wait here till the French people pass by, especially as the men have no occasion to eat much of their corn, fish being tolerably plenty. Finding we were likely to remain here this day, I went in an Indian canoe across the lake [Wabinosh lake] to the river we have to enter. I went as far as the second carrying place and then returned but was much concerned to find the Indians all drunk, notwithstanding it had been my utmost care to keep them sober, especially while our villain of a guide is with them. It seems they came and took the liquor forcibly, though they were but three of them and six of our people. St. Germaine says none of the men would help him except Jean Roy. They afterwards recovered the liquor, but not till the Indians had taken out enough to make them all drunk men and women. I expected much trouble in consequence of the above, and accordingly

(11) In a concluding note Umfreville states that "any nets that may be sent this way for the use of the voyage should have meshes much smaller than those intended for the Grand Portage. We were obliged to make one on the voyage, one we received from Mr. Grant being of no use to us".

we had our hands full. Our old troublesome fellow was so outrageous we could hardly keep him from breaking the canoe and doing every mischief. He was particularly violent against me for detecting him in his last villainy. The other Indians were very peaceable and helped us to cool this firebrand. In short we know not what to do with him; he follows us everywhere, destroys our provisions and keeps us under continual apprehensions.

Monday, 28 *June*. The last night we were obliged to keep two men continually up to guard our things, the villain being always ready to break the canoe. This morning I consulted with Mr. St. Germaine on our situation, being entirely without a guide, and no prospect of procuring one. I must confess I never was more uneasy, well knowing it is impossible to make our journey, while this fellow is in our company. One of the Indians here has offered to conduct us to a place, Tête de Bête Puante, (9) which is in our road, but this man has eight persons in family and we must maintain them, or be retarded on the journey while he goes hunting, consequently our provisions will be in no condition to continue our journey farther, and farther he does not know the way; and even when we are there, the obtaining a guide to portage de l'Isle is very precarious. Reflecting on these matters, we resolved to return to the other end of portage de Petit Jour, and there wait the return of the French people, fish not being in sufficient plenty where we are to save the corn. But, thank God, our gloomy apprehensions were in a great measure obliterated in the afternoon by the arrival of a canoe, with a Frenchman and Indian in it. The former is called Constant, and is a guide in the service of Monsieur Coté. Sixty packs has been made this winter in his quarter, but four of their men have been eat by the savages through extremity of hunger. Constant says a Canadian

(9) French translation of the Indian name of the lake referred to by John Long, 1778 as "Shekarkistergoan or the Skunk's-head lake", so called, present day Indians say, because one of the promontories when seen from a distance, looks like the head of a skunk; name contracted on modern maps to Shikag lake; on reaching the lake Umfreville forgets he has referred to it by the French translation of its Indian name and applies to it the name lac des Morts, meaning lake of the Dead referred to some such tragedy as that of cannibalism and murder referred to by John Long as having occurred in 1778.

is near hand, who is not at present engaged to any one, is well acquainted with the road, and he thinks will be willing to engage with us. This is a prize not to be lost, and that we may see him as soon as possible, mean to send after him tomorrow. This man says we may reach lac Rouge in 15 days from hence, but adds the Indians on the road are not very friendly. Made Roy a present for aiding St. Germaine.

Tuesday, 29 *June*. Mr. St. Germaine set off this morning with the man that arrived yesterday in quest of the man we are in hopes to engage. I stayed with the men to guard our things. They returned in the evening. He is named Pierre Bonneau; (12) he knows the way as far as Sturgeon lake, which, he says, is above half the way, and the greatest part of the portages over. Tomorrow he means to give us his determination.

Wednesday, 30 *June*. This day and last night proved remarkable tempestuous. We made our agreement with Bonneau to guide to Sturgeon lake and farther he is not content to go. We wished much to engage him to winter, but found it impossible. The goods he is to receive for his trouble is specified in his agreement of which he has a copy. What other things he may occasionally receive, I shall notice, and, God willing, leave this place to-morrow early. This is the twelfth day since we left the last portage the other side of lac Nippigon and this is absolutely not two days paddling. Latitude by 2 altitudes 50° 02'. One canoe of Nippigon Indians and two canoes in the service of Mr. Coté came to us today.

Thursday, 1 *July*. Made Indians a present of tobacco, powder and shot and departed. From the end of last course mentioned,—(Friday, 25th) W.S.W. 4 miles to the mouth of the river de Petite Jour, [Kopka river the South branch of Wabinosh river] about 70 yards wide, a small round island laying off its entrance. In the river . . . to a small lac [Pishidgi lake] across it S.W. by S. 3 miles. In the river S.W. by S. ¼ mile S.S. W. ¼ mile to portage le

(12) Joseph Boneau was one of John Long's men in this region in 1778.

Babbian, on left side, 280 yards over; a fewwind falls in the road, but may be cleared away with a little trouble. S.S.W. ¼ mile strong current and rapid, debarked and led canoe. Then about 100 yards to another shoaly rapid near ¼ mile long, at the end of which portage des Cèdres, 170 yards long, and good road. Then W.S.W. in a spacious opening or rather small lac [Kopka lake] 1½ miles to a point W. by S. 1 mile across a small bay, N.W. by W. 1¼ miles to a point N.W. ½ mile. In last course passed where the river discharges itself into the lac. Then immediately round a point to portage le Petite Côte de Roche, 1100 yards long; it is almost chocked up with willows, etc, growing in it, otherwise the road is good. From the portage entered a lac [Obonga lake] . . . to a peaked mountain. Encamped in a sandy bay.

Friday, 2 July. The side of the mountain is the west side of a bay, in which appears another channel, which runs northerly From the bottom of the mountain across a small bay S.S.W. ¾ mile; S.W. by W. 1 mile across another; S.W. by S. 1 mile across another, W. by S. 1½ miles three islands on left S.W. by W. ½ mile across a small bay to portage la Prairie (14) on right side; 470 yards long and road in same condition as the last yesterday. Then 120 yards to portage Brulé, 160 yards long and good road. In a river S.W. 150 yards, W. by S., 2 miles W.S.W. 1 mile. This is generally about 80 yards wide and steep, perpendicular rocky shores. Passed a small bay on left surrounded with perpendicular rocks, then came to portage d'Artoise, 130 yards long and good road. Then entered a swamp. Went in it 120 yards to portage la Grande Côte de Roche, which is 4550 yards long or 2½ miles and 150 yards; first ½ mile sloping up a mountainous rock, the remainder part good; past windfalls and part choked up; made three trips or rests this day, after being obliged to clear a passage with

(14) Umfreville's route west from the head of Obonga meaning (sandy narrows) lake is not clearly traceable on any map yet published. In 1902 Wm. McInnes followed a course to the first height of land over Umfreville's Grand Cote de Roche which "climbs in a steep slope up the almost vertical side of the valley, reaching a height of over 300 feet and....descending again 100 feet to a smaller lake" (Geol. Survey Report 1902 p. 208 A.). Umfreville's spelling of French names has been retained.

our hatchets. Met an Indian with his family on the portage who was going to Pais Plat, but now means to return with us. St. Germaine gives him a bad character, so that if the other comes up with us we shall be worse off than before.

Saturday, 3 July. Got our things over the portage at two more rests, then entered a lac about 1 mile long, after which portage Noir, 1430 yards; discharged on right side on a rock, portage is incommoded by small woods growing in it; got our baggage over and encamp on account of rain.

Sunday, 4 July. At the end of last portage a small lac. Went to the end of it, to a portage. On left side is a communication with another lac and on right near the portage is a small creek which runs out of it. Portage is 340 yards over a middling road. Then entered a lac, went to end of it, W.S.W. 1¼ miles to a small creek. Went to the end of it ½ mile to another portage 300 yards over. Then a swamp a bout 200 yards long, at the end of which a portage 500 yards long, partly choked up. The three last portages are called les trois portages de Portage Noir. From last portage entered a river, stony, shoaly and bad loading at beginning; afterwards opens into a lac with several small islands in it. The river is about 120 yards over, went in it W. 3 miles passed an opening on the left, which appeared like the junction of a small lac, then S.W. 1 mile to a rocky islet. Left it on the right, then ¾ mile to grassy point. From this point ¼ mile to the mouth of a creek on left. It afterwards opens into a small lac. Went in it to its end about 1 mile to portage les Pêches, 500 yards long and good road. Then entered a lac S.W. by W. to a point on the other side, 1½ miles. Round the point ½ mile. W. by S. 1 mile across a bay on left. S.W. by W. ¾ mile. Here the lac draws up in the form of a bold creek. Went in it 1 mile and turned immediately round a point to portage Catteaux, 80 yards over and good road, leavng the portage about 70 yards to a point across a bay. Then W.S.W. 2 miles W. by S. 1 mile, W. by S. 1 mile to a creek which in about ¼ mile terminates in a swamp. About 40 yards up

this on the right is portage Bushé 135 yards long by the swamp into another small lac. Passed the canoe in it part of the way and carried the remainder. Then round a point across the lac ¼ mile S.W. to portage le Gros Galais, 450 yards long and good road over a rock. From this portage the current descends westerly. (15)

Monday, 5 July. From the end of the portage a small lac. Crossed it into an opening like a creek, which ends in a swamp. Went to the end of it 1¼ miles to portage Brulé, 670 yards long, and, after clearing away a little a tolerable road. Part of the passage to the portage was so shallow, that we were obliged to half unload the canoe, but the guide says the water is lower than common. Leaving the portage, crossed a small lac N.W. by W. about 200 yards to another opening like a river. Went to the end of it, which is broad 1 mile to portage des Grosses Roches. In the course of this mile passed another opening on the right, which appears like a strait into another lac. Last portage 430 yards long, and bad road over sharp rocks. Then entered a narrow lac. Went to the end ¾ mile to portage de Calumet 160 yards over and good road. Then entered a lac N.W. by W. ¾ mile from hence. As usual the lac draws up to a narrow channel. Went to the end 2 miles to portage Savanne, 450 yards long and road mostly swampy. Then entered narrow lac 1¼ miles long (leaving a channel on the right) to portage de Ram, 90 yards long and good road. Then a lac [?Kashishibog lake] which appears from the portage to be of a square form. N.W. by W. to a point on left ¾ mile. N.W. ¼ mile across a bay to a grassy point. Then entered a narrow strait ½ mile long into another lac. The strait has plenty of water in it, but several large stones being under water makes it necessary to be cautious. After leaving the strait, went ¾ mile to a point, several large stones above water. S.W. by S. ¾ mile W.S.W. ½ mile three islands on right and three small ones on left; also several stones appear above water in this course. W.S.W. ¾ mile to a point on right, on which side passed one island and another on the left. Then S. by E. 2½ miles

(15) The drainage is now westerly and northerly.

having several islands on left and the end of the lac on right. This brought us to portage Campion, (16) 160 yards over a good road. As this portage is not very easy for a stranger to find, on account of the number of small islands, it is necessary to mention that at the beginning of it several trees are barked and on the right is a small run of water, with large stones at its mouth. The numerous small lakes which we pass are joined by small drains of water, the passing of which makes the carrying places. At a portage, this day Dubay, one of our men narrowly missed mutilation by the bursting of a gun he had in care.

Tuesday, 6 July. From portage Campion a narrow lac, in which went to the end 1¼miles on the right of which another lac joins with this, but the neck between them has so many large stones in it that we were obliged to discharge and carry over it. Then about 200 yards to another narrow neck. From hence west 3 miles to a sloping rocky point; small rocky island on right and several small ones and a bay on left. Opposite the end of the course is a deep narrow bay. Then west 2½ miles. Passed a deep bay on left. This course goes to a low rocky point on left. Then a narrow channel like a creek ¼ mile up which the channel is nearly stopped by high stones above water. Men debarked and passed the canoe among the stones to portage de la Praline. Here the water descends through a narrow passage into another lac through which we passed the empty canoe; portage 55 yards over a good road. From the end of the portage W. by S. 120 yards to a point. Then west to a point 250 yards, being the beginning of a broad strait into another lac, a creek being on left. W. by S. 1½ miles to a point having a bay on left and several small islands on right. From this point turned round S.S.W. 2½ miles, having a small round islet of pine trees on right and a bay with larger ones on the left. This brought us to an opening like a creek, which is soon after closed by rocks and small stones. The men debarked and

16. This name suggests that Etienne Campion, the old French trader who was Alex Henry's assistant in 1761 had travelled this way; or it may have been Alexis Campion who resided at Matchedash bay in 1778

passed the canoe in the strait among stones, about 70 yards. Then entered a narrow lac S.S.W. ¾ mile to a point on left. S. by W. ¾ mile to a point on left into a bay. Then entered a narrow channel with large stones at its mouth. Went in it ¼ mile when it opens wide with islands in it. From the end of first island to south end of another ¼ mile S. by W. W.S.W. to a point 1 mile; a bay on left and two small ones on the right. Then went through a narrow passage into another lac. Then round a point on an island on left, a bay on right, W.N.W. ¼ mile, lac spacious with many islands. Then W. by S. ½ mile to the north end of the island. From hence S.W. ¾ mile to a point on right. Then S.W. along the N.W. shore with many islands on left 1½ miles to an opening like a wide creek. Went in it W.S.W. to the point of an island on the right and then S.S.W. across a bay on left 3 miles; three islands on right and many on left. Then S.S.W. ¾ mile to point of an island on left. Many stones lay in the channel at the beginning of this course and a bay on left. Then S.W. by W. along the north or right hand shore 2½ miles; large islands to the left. Went in a channel like a bold river. Last course is to a low point of pine trees on left. Opposite to this point is a bay and two islands. Then S.W. by S. 1½ miles to a point on right. S.S.W. 1¼ mile a traverse to the point of an island on left; bay and rocky shore on right. S.W. ¾ mile to an opening like a bold creek. Passed a small rocky island and another lays at the entrance of the strait. In it S.W. 1 mile to a point on left, a bay on right and another on left; both shores rocky. Turned round the point and went S.E. in a spacious bay, ¼ mile to a rocky point. Then round last point S.S.W. in a strait ¾ mile to a point on right; both shores rocky and a little bay on left. Went round the point and and then W.N.W. 2 miles to a rocky point. Then entered a strait on left. Went in it west to a point of pine trees on left 2 miles when it opens wide with several islands on right and one on left. Then ¼ mile to an inlet between two rocks, on the right is portage Islet 40 yards; good road over a smooth rock. Another lac immediately joins to this, but it has a descent of about 2½ yards

and the passage between the rocks is about 5 yards over. From the portage went west ½ mile to the end of a rocky island of pine trees, being a strait about 50 yards wide. In it W. by S. 1 mile to a point on right; passed three openings on right and four on left. From the end of this course the strait is divided into two channels by an island. Then W. by N. in a fair channel and regular shores about 100 yards wide to a point on right 2 miles. At the end of this course a bay on the left. Then turned round the point and went north in a narrow strait ¼ mile to a place where the channel is almost choked up with stones. The men debarked and passed the canoe down it. Then turned round a rocky point on left and came to a discharge called discharge d'Orignal. Half unloaded the canoe and then shot the rapid with the remainder; rapid about 100 yards long. From the bottom of it went W. by S. ¾ mile over a small lac to portage d'Orignal 230 yards over a good road. Carried the goods over, and passed the canoe down the rapid. Here the place has all the appearance of a creek with a strong current in our favour. From the bottom of the rapid ¼ mile to another rapid, about 70 yards long. Men debarked and led the canoe down it. From the bottom it opens into a lac [un-named lake between Kashishibog lake and Clearwater lake] in which went ½ mile to a point on right; a small rocky island on left. Then N W. by N. 1½ miles to a point; two bays and one isle on right and two bays and three isles on left. Then traversed 1 mile to the point of an island; same course; deep bay and several islands on right. Then N. 1 mile to the point of an island; many islands on left. N.W. ¾ mile to a point; a bay and several islands on right. Then traversed over to a rocky face of the bank N.W. 1 mile and island laying on the right. Went round the rock to a narrow rapid on left, leavng the lac behind us, which I named lac des Isles. The canoe went very well down the rapid. Then 5 miles in a narrow channel, after which it opens into a lac [Clearwater lake]. Went 1¼ miles to a point on right; one bay and one isle on left. Encamped.

Wednesday, 7 July. From the point last night W. by S. ¾ mile; a bay and rocky island on right; the same on left. Then in

a channel like a broad river west 1½ miles; on the left is small island. At the end of the course, W.S.W. a traverse to a point on left, a bay on right; ½ mile round the point to the end of a bay; about ¼ mile to a rapid in a narrow channel. Men debarked, except two and shot it. A short distance from the former is another. Passed it as before. Then it opens into a lac [un-named lake west of Clearwater lake]. Turned the first point on left and then went W.S.W. ½ mile to the entrance of a channel like the mouth of a river. Then S.S.W. 1 mile to a rock on the point of an island on right. Passed a rocky point on left, also a deep bay on left. From the point S.W. 1 mile to the bottom of a rapid. Passed three islands on right and two on left. Here the current runs easterly, being against us. This is a portage 263 yards long over a good road and called portage à la Line. At the bottom of the rapid are poisson doré, jack, carp and white fish From the top of the rapid in a spacous river [Bright sand river] (17) which our guide calls rivière de Portage à la Line. After going up it a south-westerly course 4½ miles, turned round a rocky point on left and went S.E. to a point on right ¾ mile having a deep bay on left. Then S.W. by S. ¼ mile to a point. Turned round it and then went 1 mile S.W. to a narrow channel near which lies a round rocky island. Having entered the channel went among stones above water against a strong current near ¼ mile to a short rapid. The men debarked and led canoe against it. S.W. by S. 2½ miles, several large stones in the river, to a narrow neck between rocks. From this entered a lac called lac de Bute de Sable (1) and went S.W. by S. 2½ miles to a point on right along the west shore, having two islands and several high stones on left. Then to a point on right S.W. by W. 2 miles four islands and stones on left. From this point left west shore and traversed S.S.W. 4 miles, four islands and a deep bay on right

(17) Brightsand river drains northeasterly into Wapikaimaski lake and Seseganaga lake; ruins of an old trading post exist on the former lake, according to Indian report.

(1) Butte de Sable is a French translation of an Indian name Metionga (Geological Survey report 1899, p. 117, A.) or Neteianga as on modern maps, which means "Sand Point"; the lake drains east and north through Brightsand river.

and a deep bay with islands at a distance on our left. This brought us to a narrow stony channel and rapid. Men debarked and led the canoe up it . Then S. by W. ½ mile to another stony channel, strong current . Passed a narrow opening on left, which leads into the lac we just came out of. Then S.W. to a point on right ¾ mile; a deep bay on each side, and opposite each other Thence W. by N. to a stony channel 1 mile, a deep bay on left. Passed the channel and went 3½ miles to a sandy point on right; one small bay and another very deep and wide on right; also one deep bay and islands on left. Went round the point ½ mile to a point of stones on right. Then crossed the mouth of a bay ¼ mile over portage des Attucon; at present 800 yards long, and middling road, but a passage might be made much shorter. There is a strait very stony between the two lacs, through which we passed the canoe. Then entered a lac which is called lac de Portage de Pishu. Went in it S.W. by W. 1 mile from the portage to the point of a small island on left, passed two on the right, W.N.W. 2 miles to portage de Pishu 64 yards over a good road; a bay and two small islands on right and a bay and one island on left. From the portage a small lac, which we crossed W.N.W. 1½ miles to portage des Cyprès, (2) 616 yards over a good road.

Thursday, 8 *July*. From the port W.S.W. 1 mile across a small lac to a point. Then W. by N. 1 mile to a point on right in a channel like a river. N.W. by W. ½ mile to a point on left. Went round the point to a grassy swamp, being a strait into another lac. Passed through it without debarking and went in a small lac N.W. by W. 1 mile to a point on right, having a deep bay with islands on right and a narrow stony channel on left. N.W. by W. 1 mile to a point on the left, a bay on the right. Round the point W. by N. 1 mile to a narrow passage like a creek on left. Went down the current in it 2 miles at the end of which a grassy neck, which opens into lac des Morts. Turned round upon right and went

(2) The drainage is now west and south through Shikag and Mattawa lakes into English river; according to Indian report, there are ruins of a trading post on a lake in the group of which Mattawa lake is one.

W.S.W. 1 mile. Along the N.W. shore 2½ miles to a grassy point, leaving two rocks and two small islands on the right. W. by N. 1½ miles to another point of grass on right, a deep bay on the left. Then round the point and across a bay N.W. by ¾ mile. Then crossed in a bay N.W. 3 miles. Then turned off on the left and went W.S.W. to point of an island on right, two bays and two islands on right. Then west 3 miles to a point opposite an old fort, where a Mr. Roy wintered two years ago; two islands on left and deep bay on right; Hence to a point of stones 1½ miles W.N.W. a deep bay on right islands and stones on left. Turned round the point and went N. by W. in a bay 2 miles, some burnt woods of a red colour on left, to a wide strait. Went in it W.N.W. near ½ mile, then turned round an island on right and went N.N.E. 1 mile to two black rocks on the shore. Left them on the right and turned on the left side into a narrow channel with stony shore. A short distance in it debarked and passed the canoe between some stones in a narrow neck. Here the current runs easterly (4). Then entered a small lac, crossed it W.N.W. 1½ miles to a broad channel. Went in it W. by N. 3 miles when we were stopped by rain at 11 a.m.

Friday, 9 July. Left the strait and crossed a small lac to a point of high land on left W. by N. 1 mile. Passed a bay on left and an island on right. Then W. 1½ miles to the point of an island on left; channel ¾ mile wide; very irregular shores. From this isle went to the first point on right ½ mile on the N. shore. Kept along it westerly about 1 mile to la première portage de lac Sturgeon (5). It lies in a small bay [Willow lake] on right, a rock lying in the bay, and a large one close to the path. Portage is 300 yards long and bad road, being choked up with small woods. From the end of the portage a small lac. Turned first point on left and went W. by N. ¾ mile having two bays on right and two on left. Went to the end of the lac, on left, to portage de la Discharge; 340 yards long and a bad road, being swampy and choked up. Then

(4) Umfreville is now west of Shikag lake but the drainage is still east and south into English river through Shikag lake.
(5) Another height of land; beyond this the drainage is west into Sturgeon lake.

entered a small narrow lac, went in it about ¾ mile to a swamp, on left, in which went about ¾ mile. Men debarked and passed the canoe through it to another lac [Bell lake]. Had much trouble in the swamp, having scarce room enough for the canoe. Here is a path on the right along which carried part of our things. Leaving the swamp, passed round first point on left ¼ mile, then entered a channel about 100 yards wide to the first point on right. W. ½ mile. Turned the point into another channel W.N.W. to a point on left 2 miles. Here the lac [Bell lake] opens large with several islands. Then W. by N. to the point of a small island on left; islands and a bay on each side. Stopped by rain at 10½ a.m. W. by N. 2½ miles: a traverse to the point of an island, lac spacious on both sides with large islands. Then W.N.W., 1½ miles to a point on right between two islands which appear at a distance like a strait; lac spacious and large islands. Then W.N.W. to a point on right 2 miles; lac spacious on both sides with islands on left. Turned round the point and came to le Grand portage de Lac Sturgeon, 1750 yards over; part of the road good and part swampy. At the end of the portage is a swamp which runs into a lac [Darkwater lake]. N. by W. ½ mile to a point on left from the end of the swamp. Then W. by N. ½ mile between a small island and the main on left, deep bay on the right and several isles. Then 1 mile W.N.W. to a point on left, being a traverse across the lac; bay and several islands on right and a bay on left. At the end of this course is a narrow neck, a grassy point on right. The turned point on the right and went N.W. by N. ¼ mile to a point on left. Here entered a channel like a creek; long grass on both sides. Went in about 1 mile, when it draws narrow and is almost stopped up with reeds, and long grass. Went among it ¼ mile to portage de Fort. (6).

(6) Portage du Fort is also mentioned by Harmon who 1807 made the journey to the portage from fort Duncan, lake Nipigon in ten days and the return journey in 1808 in the same time; Umfreville took eleven days from Champlain point, lake Nipigon to the portage; evidently Harmon followed Umfreville's route and fort Duncan was near Wabinosh bay.

STURGEON LAKE TO LAC SEUL

Saturday, 10 July. Passed our things over the portage which is 540 yards over a good road. An old settlement where a Mr. James wintered six years ago is still in being on the left side of the portage. Then entered Sturgeon lake, (7) in which we went about 15 miles out of [our course] expecting to go by a way, la Chemin Neuve. [Sturgeon river] which our guide was unable to find . . . to portage Embarrassé [leading to Young lake]. Here we encamped. In the passage from the fort to this portage, the course being about west keep the south shore on left crossing the bays. There is no river in the way. If the weather is clear and not too much wind, one may go more large and by cutting off points, islands, etc. make the distance much shorter. And by keeping the south or left hand shore always in view, a person cannot miss the portage, which is marked down from the last point mentioned, the end of the lac being ¼ mile from the portage. Our Canadian guide having gone with us as far as he knows the way, we have no further occasion for him, but, as he has no canoe, he is still in our company. He has been a very good, quiet man and, as he knows the way very well from Pais Plat to Sturgeon lake, we would willingly engage him to winter, so that he may be employed as guide hereafter, if there should be occasion for him. The Indian we met on the 2nd instant has been ever since in our company and has by no means answered to the character given by St. Germaine. If it had not been for him we should now be in much

(7) Mr. Dallas Gastmeier of Allanwater who is well acquainted with Sturgeon lake states that on a point a mile from the bay where the portage from Darkwater lake hits Sturgeon lake are mounds of earth, betokening log house foundations banked for winter; Harmon wintered 1807-08 at a North West Co. post on the west side of the lake. This would be in the southern portion of the lake, possibly where the water route goes to lake of Bays, as, according to Mr. Gastmeier traces of a house are visible here. The Report of the Exploration of Northern Ontario in 1900 describes a deserted trading post, "once the scene of an Indian visitation as its timbers are cut and scarred by many shot holes", situated above a rapid on the first bend of a river which flows into the northwestern bay of the lake.

distress for a guide, he being the only Indian we have seen since we left lac de Petite Jour. He knows the way we have taken today, but is at a loss in the one attempted this morning. He says we have more portages and more rapids this way than the other, but, on the contrary it is much shorter. Be it as it will, we must go the way he is capable to guide us. Entered into an agreement with him in writing, to the same purport as that of Pierre Bonneau.

Sunday, 11 *July*. Got our things over the portage, which is 1010 yards long and a good road. It blew so hard today, that we were confined to the end of the portage. Paid Pierre Bonneau for guiding us to Sturgeon lake.

Monday, 12 *July*. From the portage entered a lac, [Young lake] Crossed it W. by N. 1½ miles to a point on the right. Passed two islands and a bay on left. Then W. by N. 1 mile to a point on same side—this point is an excellent place for poisson doré, etc.—a bay on right and left. Then N.W. by W. 1 mile to a narrow stony channel. Passed the entrance with difficulty without discharging. Went in the channel ¾ mile, then entered a lac [White-rock lake]. Turned round first point on left ¼ mile then traversed S.W. 3 miles to a point; a bay on left three islands on right. Then S.W. by S. 1 mile, two islands on left, to portage des Bouleaux. —here is a stony strait which discharges into the adjoining lac—which is 180 yards over a good road. From the portage, entered a lac [Pine lake] in which turned immediately to left and coasted along shore ½ mile to a point; many islands on right. From the point traversed over the lac S.W. by W. 3 miles to a point, leaving a small island of pine trees on right. From this point crossed to a channel like a creek, grassy on each side. Went in it ½ mile to portage de la Presse, 195 yards over a good road. Then a small lac, about 60 yards wide, to a narrow grassy channel. Whent in it 1½ miles to a lac, [Hut lake] which we crossed S.S.W. 2½ miles to a point; a wide opening on right and two small islands before it and a bay on left. Went around the point to a wide channel, went along right side of it S.W. when it opens into a lac. Crossed it S.W. 3

miles, passing a small island on the right and a deep bay on left, near the end of the course. Then entered a narrow channel [Rice river]. Went in it, in fine deep water with wild rice on each side, 2½ miles, then entered a lac. Went in it S.W. by W. 3 miles to a point; several islands and deep bay on left. Passed near a point of the main on right and a small isle on left. Turned round the point and entered a broad channel; course in it W. by S. 1 mile to a point of grass on the right, being a neck which leads into lac a la Presse [Otter lake]. Turned upon the right and went W.N.W. 2½ miles having two small isles on left and an old press on a sandy beach, and a bay upon the right. This course goes to the first island on the right, laying at the mouth of a wide branch of the lac, which turns off to the right. After leaving the island, N.E. by E. 2 miles to a rocky point on left, keeping several islands on the right. Turned round the rocky point and went W.N.W. 1¼ miles in a broad channel to a point on left. At the end of this course, the channel is narrower and turns off westerly into a small lac. Went N.W. by W. 2 miles between two isles on left and the main on right. This brought us to the mouth of rivière de Monataggé, (8) [English river] which is stony at the mouth and has a little island laying at its entrance. Went in it, down an easy current, north 1 mile to a rapid being portage de Detour [leading to Jarvis lake]—named by St. Germaine—102 yards over a good road on left side. Shot the rapid with the major part of the goods in the canoe and carried the remainder. At the bottom of this rapid a lac with islands. Turned round first point on left and went W.S.W. 1½ miles to a point on left, having two small islands on the left and two ditto and a bay on right. then S.W. ¼ mile. In the river S.W. by W. 1 mile W.S.W. 1 mile, W. ½ mile to a rapid. Shot down the right hand side after a few pieces were taken out. The portage [below Jarvis lake] was named la Batture by our men; 250 yards over; wants clearing. W.N.W. 1 mile in a lac, having islands on right and left. Three

(8) Having reached English river in Otter lake, Umfreville continues down it through Minnitaki lake and lac Seul to Winnipeg river. Umfreville does not employ the name English river, but calls the portion of the waterway above Minnitaki lake after the lake into which it runs.

channels appear on the right. Entered the third. N.N.W. ¾ mile from the beginning of the channel to a point on left, the lac on right. From the point, north ¾ mile to a rapid. Here are two channels. Went down the left, the beginning of which is shallow and stony bottom. Men debarked and led the canoe down it about 30 yards Then about 100 yards to another rapid, about 150 yards long, at the end of which portage de l'Isle, 180 yards over a good road. When the water is low, they pass by another portage which the guide says is ½ league over. From the end of the portage by the isle, over a short shoal of large stones near ½ mile to a rapid at the end of the isle, which we passed on our right. Then went near ½ mile to a rapid, which the canoe passed with half its lading. Carried the rest over the portage, which is on the right side 190 yards over and named by our men portage de Deux Rapids.

Tuesday, 13 July. From the portage went about ¼ mile among stones and strong current, then turned to the right leaving a swampy channel behind us; ¼ mile farther another rapid. Shot it easily, having plenty of water. Near ¼ mile to another or rather two, but a short distance being between them. Shot them without difficulty. Then 1 mile to another. Shot it as the last. Then ½ mile to another, being portage Neuf, 520 yards long on right side and much incommoded for want of use. Discharged a few pieces and passed it easily. From the rapid turned upon the left. At first point is a rapid. Passed it without discharging. Then ¾ mile to another. Went down easy. 100 yards to another. Shot it as before. Then 5¾ miles to the end of a swampy lac, on each side the river. Turned a point on right and came to a rapid, which we shot about ¼ mile without discharging. The remainder was a strong portage for near all the things. Is on the right side. Called portage des Grosses Roches, by our men; 260 yards over a good road. The men who shot the canoe say it is difficult. From the portage entered a small lac, across which and into the river N.W. 2 miles, then 2½ miles to a rapid. All debarked but two to shoot the canoe. It is at least 3 miles long and difficult iin places, and called rapid Croche. From hence ¾ mile to rapid

les Trois Roches, this three rapids following each other very quick, Passed the first two without debarking, but at the beginning of the last, all debarked except two to shot the canoe. Distance of the whole about ¾ mile. Then ¾ mile to another rapid, called le Grosse Volante; at least 3 miles long with little breaks in places; exceeding strong current; all ashore but three to shoot the canoe. At the end of this a cataract, which has a sloping descent over smooth rock, about 20 feet and called chutte à Monataggé, 100 yards over a good road. On the right side of the portage is a channel, which leads into the lac. Went through it about 70 yards and then entered lac Monataggé (9). From the end of the channel went W.S.W. 1 mile to a grassy point on right. Turned round the point W.N.W. 3 miles between two islands, a large stone in the middle of the channel, which is narrow. From this, the lac appears spacious with isles to right Passed a wide bay on the left and a large island called isle de Diable. The end of the course is between two islands N.N.W. 3½ miles. Then turned the island on right N.W. ¼ mile across a bay to a point on left, several islands on right. From thence in a deep bay to a point on the right N.W. by W. ¼ mile. Passed two wide openings and several islands on left. N.W. by W. 1¼ miles to a point on left; sandy beach on right and spacious lac on left.

(9) John Long tells us that Shaw had a post here in 1777-78; Long visited it in January 1778; he calls it Manontoye; the North West Company spelling about 1808 was Monontagua; or Monontague; the modern spelling of the name Minnitaki dates from Dr. R. Bell's survey of 1872 and has led to the suggested derivation of the name from the Sioux words Minne "water" and Tanka "big". The explanation is not very convincing despite the fact that the Sioux are said to have come thus for north to pilfer and plunder and a high rocky bluff which has given its name to Sioux Lookout railway station is pointed out as the place where they used to lie in wait. Aeneas McDonnell, writing to Roderick Mackenzie from lac Seul, 15 June, 1807, states that "in the fall of 1803 when I first came to this country, there were forty Indians in Monontague (exclusive of boys) then independent of Red lake. Ten of that number are now dead, seven of them were killed by their relatives in their drunken frolics the other three died a natural death. They appear to be a tribe of the Mississagues. At least their language and manners much resemble each other and seem to be a mixture of the Sauteux and Maskigon". Umfreville's Manitou or Devil island is still so known to the Indians. Mr. W. S. Jardine of Sioux Loukout states it is the largest and furthest out of the small group of islands off the mouth of Minnikau river where the bay enters the main body of water; the largest island which lies right in the mouth of the bay is of a very irregular coast line and the southernmost point is of a rather remarkable rock formation, which may be the rock referred to by Umfreville.

Then 1½ miles N.W. to a rocky point of an island on right, lac spacious and many islands on both sides. Then N.W. by N. 2½ miles to a remarkable peaked uneven rock on a point on right; lac spacious and many islands on left. From the rock ½ mile to a rocky point on left, deep bay on right. Turned round the point W. by N. 1¼ miles to a point on right, several islands on left and isles and rocky uneven shore on right. Then crossed to the point of an island 3½ miles W.N.W.; four bays on right and many islands, also islands and spacious lac on left. Then N.W. by W. to a low rocky point 1¼ miles being a narrow neck and rapid called rapid à la Loutre; bay and islands on right; spacious lac and islands on left. From this point shot the rapid and entered another lac [Abram lake]. Encamped. This rapid is well stored with poisson doré and whitefish. Lac de Montaggé [Minnitaki lake] is the largest we have been in since we left lac Nippigon and is very full of islands which makes the way rather difficult. As to the river we have left behind us today, I can say little in its favour. It is so very full of rapids, that it must be hurtful to canoes and fatiguing to the men to go against the current; the line must be out three parts of the way, and if the water is high, it will cover over the stones on the shore, which is the only way the men have to walk in. On the contrary, the portages are good in general and, though choked up with small woods, the ground is dry and even, and the small woods may be soon cleared away. One recommendation for this way I must mention is its shortness, which I am pretty certain, by the courses we have made, exceeds le Chemin Neuve by Sturgeon lake. The guide informs me that the river which descends from Sturgeon lake, falls also into this lake, but does not think we should have arrived here so soon, had we taken the other road. He says it is one river [Sturgeon river] all the way and is called by the Canadians rivière de Chemin Neuve, and by the Indians Pishu a sepy (10). I put much confidence in what this man says, as he has been brought up among the Canadians and seems very fond of them. He is an excellent guide, and good hunter and, in a word, the very reverse

(10) Indian for "Lynx river".

of our former guide, he being the most villainous and this the best Indian that ever I met with. I am induced to make this disgression at the end of the day in favour of a man whom Providence has put in our way, for had it not been for him when we arrived in Sturgeon lake, the fruits of the voyage must have been lost, and we probably perished for want of provisions.

Wednesday, 14 July. From the rapid à la Loutre [betweeen Minnitaki lake and Abram lake] W. by N. 3½ miles to a narrow channel between two islands; lac des Truits [southwest portion of Abram lake] which appears like a river on the left, one island, two bays, and river mentioned yesterday on right, which river passing the point of a bay bore N. by E. The channel mentioned in last course has several stones in it, which makes it very narrow..... then W.S.W. to the mouth of river de lac Seul (11) ¾ mile, deep bay and two islands on left. From the mouth of the river 1½ miles to a rapid near ¼ mile long and difficult. Debarked all but three. After passing the canoe, portage Shatake (12), on right side and 156 yards over a good road. From the end of the portage W.S.W. 1½ miles then 2 miles, where the river appears to be divided into two branches. Went down the right hand one. The other is a lac and called by the Indians Tête de François (13) and bore from the middle of the channel west. N.N.E. 1 mile. Then turned upon the right N.E. 2 miles to a point on left, round point ¼ mile when it opens into a small lac. Crossed it from the point of first island N.N.W. 2 miles, (passed three islands and bay on left and three bays and one island on right) to the river, [Crooked rapids] rocky on both sides; in it 5 miles to a wide channel, in the middle of which is a large island of pine trees and a long view in a straight line about 5 leagues. Passed between the island and the main on the left shore, from which to the first point of the island ½ mile island ¾ long. From the lower end of it

(11) Umfreville's name for English river from Minnitaki lake to lac Seul.

(12) Modern Pelican portage; Shatake, usually written Chitek is Indian for pelican.

(13) Meaning Frenchman Head lake; still so called though designated Lost lake on most maps.

E. by N. 2½ miles to a broad channel on left, leaving the main branch behind us, Went in it N.W. by W. ¾ mile to a narrow channel on left. The channel leads into a lac. Turned the point on left and went ¾ mile W.N.W. to the point of an island on left, leaving a deep narrow opening on left. Then W. by S. ½ mile to a stony point on right, deep bay on left. Then N.W. by W. along north shore ¾ mile. Then left the lac and entered the river N. by W. ½ mile then, 1 mile to a rapid. Shot it with ease, having plenty of water. Then a small lac in which ¼ mile to first point on left. Turned the point which is rocky, then 100 yards to a point of grass. Went along it 1 mile and then the river. Passed a deep bay and two islands on right. Went 2 miles to the end of the grass on left shore, then W. by S. 3½ miles in a broad channel to a grassy point on right. Passed a deep bay on right and a rocky point and a bay on left. Encamped. The river de lac Seul so far has a very flattering appearance, being in many places near a mile wide, with an easy current all the way and pleasant shores, and is a very fine inland river. Its course after leaving the large island mentioned before is east and our guide says runs down to one of the Hudson's Bay settlements. The rapid passed in it today is passed by the line going against the current.

Thursday, 15 July. Passed an opening like a river (14) on right (this opening afterwards turns into a large bay, in which the French people sometimes pass to lac Seul, to avoid the portage, but our guide says it is a round about way) and high rocky points on left. then W.S.W. 2 miles. Passed two islands and one bay on right and a grassy opening like a swamp at the beginning of the course on left. Turned a point on left and went W.S.W. 4 miles in a clear wide channel [Grassy bay] to a grassy point on right. Passed a bay and one island on left. Turned point and went N.W. by W. ½ mile to a stony point, deep bay and two islands in left, N.W. ¼ mile to a grassy point on right, then in a bay N.W. 1½ miles

(14) Umfreville here leaves English river, but rejoins it again in lac Seul.

to a narrow channel, wild rice on each side. Went in it about 3 miles, meadow land on each side, always keeping the right hand channel to an opening which appears between a few willows to a small lac. This is a portage and called portage la Prairie, 220 yards over a fine meadow, not having one stick in the way. Then in the lac [Canoe lake].....to a point on right, being the entrance of a broad channel, like a river [Canoe river]. Went in it about 1 mile to a rock in the channel, when it opens into a small lac. Crossed it 1 mile to a point on right. Then another small lac. Crossed it N.N.E. ¾ mile to a narrow channel, with high grass on each side. Went to the end of it 4 miles to the beginning of lac Seul, in which to first point on left ¼ mile. Across a bay on left to the point of an island ½ mile, from which point, which is rocky, crossed over to a long island on the right and coasted along it about 7 miles crossing a bay on left. In this course, which is west, passed a sandy point which has a round stone on it called roche de Diable. This stone is reverenced by the Indians who have deposited several presents to the old gentleman. Passing the point, which is about 1 mile from roche de Diable went W.N.W. 2½ miles to a point on right, an excellent fishing place, a bay on right, spacious lac on left. In this course passed by an old settlement (15) of Mr. Lyons on the right, when we were stopped by rain for the third time this day. Pierre Bonneau parted from us this morning in company with the Indians met yesterday. On the first entrance into lac Seul, (16) a long opening appears in view and goes north. Our guide informs me that all the Indians who trade at Albany Fort, pass by here, that it is no more than three days paddling to Henley house and

(15) Presumably near the present Hudson's Bay Co. post; John Long mentions a post on the lake in charge of Joseph La Forme in 1778.

(16) Bishop Anderson in "The Net in the Bay" implies that lac Seul, meaning the "lonely" or "solitary" lake, is a translation of an Indian name of the lake; Umfreville is the first to mention the lake by its present name; John Long in his book, published 1791, calls it lac le Sel, meaning Salt lake; however, he never visited the lake; another Indian name of the lake is Obijikoka, the meaning of which Dr. R. Bell in Geol. Surv. Report 1872 gives as lake of "the strait of white pine trees' referring to the narrows at the present Hudson's Bay Co. post. Umfreville's name for English river below lac Seul Mattauwaw or "forks" river, refers to its "junction" with modern Chukuni river.

five to Albany fort and that Mr. Lyons made 36 packs one year at his settlement.

Friday, 16 *July* . . . To the point of an island on left, spacious lac and islands on left and several other islands in a cluster on left near the course. Here we met three canoes of Indians (mostly men) on their way to Albany fort. Two of these were chiefs, one of Sturgeon lac and the other of lac Seul. We made them a present of tobacco, powder and shot with a gallon keg of liquor and, as it is necessary to make friends with men of influence on the road, we encamped according to their request. Some liquor was given them afterwards, but they were tolerably peacable on the whole, and we parted very good friends. It is true the best part of a day is lost, but, as they traded some provisions with us, our men have no occasion to eat their corn, which from eight sacks at Pais Plat is reduced to less than two. Latitude 50° 22' N.

Saturday, 17 *July* . . . To a rocky point on right, several islands at a distance on left. Latitude, as yesterday, 50° 22'. This morning we left the islands early but were obliged to embark the guide in our canoe, without his wife and children, she being drunk and unwilling to depart. This obliged us to wait for them at the end of the course. Accordingly they came up to us in the evening, but the work of two fine days was lost, and this I must contribute entirely to our having spirits with us, which is entirely unnecessary in a voyage where expedition is a primary object, on account of provisions, which I begin to be in pain for, as it runs off very fast notwithstanding we have two nets in the water at every opportunity, but the provisions has been consumed by means unforseen. A guide must be had at all events and him and his family maintained or he will not proceed This has been as heavy upon our stock as the men's allowance. It was the opinion of Mr. Grant that the less spirituous liquors we had. with us the better. This was my opinion and also the opinion of the traders we met at lac de Petite Jour, who were intelligent men. An Indian may be as meek as a lamb when sober and the same man when drunk a mere devil. In short, we have not had occasion for an hour's uneasiness in all the route, but what has proceeded from

this infernal stimulator. Were we on a trading voyage, I own the necessity of it.

Sunday, 18 *July*. Turned the rocky point mentioned yesterday and went N.W. by W. 3 miles to a point on right (the lac here appears narrower) then N.W. by W. about 1 mile across the lac till we were in the midway between two small islands of stones. Here are three small stony islands, but we took the course between the two farthest. Then N.N.W. 3 miles to a conspicuous sandy point on left [Manitoba point]. Turned the sandy point and crossed a bay 2 miles to next point on left, islands on right. Then slanted over the adjoining bay to a rocky point on right, being a broad channel [Poplar narrows] wth grass on right; W. by N. 3 miles in it; N.W. by N. 1½ miles to a point on left; a bay on right; then 1 mile along the point which is of wild rice, and from it a long view forward....to a broad strait [Shanty narrows]; several islands on right. Went in the strait 4½ miles to the extreme point on right, without regarding several openings on left. Then entered the lac again; W.N.W 6 miles a traverse, to a point on right; lac spacious on both sides, one large island on left and several on right. Encamped. At least half this day was lost by Mr. St. Germaine leaving the key of the trunk, cave and quadrant case at last night's encampment. This was a loss not to be retrieved in this part. Accordingly we went in search of them after we had proceeded 4 leagues, and, the wind blowing hard, it was late before the canoe arrived. Stoppages are now become so regular that I look for some impediment every day. One of the Indian chiefs passed us to-day, having altered his mind in going to Albany Fort.

LAC SEUL TO WINNIPEG RIVER

Monday 19 *July.* From the point on the right 2½ miles to a point on same side. Here the lac draws more narrow. 150 yards to another point on right, then N.W. by W. to a rocky point, apparently at end of the lac, 1 mile, but is a narrow neck which directly opens into the lac, course nearly N.W. by W. 3 miles to a white conspicuous rock on a point on left; many islands and spacious lac on right. Went near the land on left; then 1 mile to a smooth rocky point of an island on left N.W. by N. 2 miles to the point of an island on left lac spacious and many islands on both sides; several small islands on left and larger ones on right. Then N.N.W. 3 miles to the point of an island on right; lac spacious and many islands on both sides N.W. 3½ miles to the point of a small rocky island on left with burnt woods on it. Lac here draws narrow. Passed two islands on left and one bay on right. N.W. by W. 1½ miles to a grassy point on right. Then entered a bold river called Mattauwaw went in it with a fresh current in our favour 2½ miles to portage de l'Oreille [upper Ear falls], 146 yards over a good road. At the bottom of this rapid is a bay, on the bottom of which is the other portage de l'Oreille [Lower Ear falls], being both together called les deux portages de l'Oreille. The last is 280 yards over and tolerable road, the latter part of it much descending. Both portages are on the left. From the end of the last turned first point on the right and went 14½ miles to the branch [Chukuni river]. The one on the left we entered south, leaving the right hand one running west. Went in the south branch 1½ miles, when it opens into a lac [Camping lake]. Crossed it to a rock on a point on right, S.E. by S. 5 miles, leaving a long grassy point on the left. Then coasted along the shore on the right, ¾ mile to an opening on the same side. Then crossed a small bay ¾ mile S. by W. to portage Cyprès, [avoiding

upper Manitou falls] as called by our guide. The portage is difficult to find being 100 yards through long grass, before you reach the woods. It is 1810 yards over, or 1 mile and 50 yards. The road is good. Encamped. The river we have been in to-day is a fine bold river, being in general about 50 yards over, deep water and an easy current. From the commencement to the branch, there is no other river or creek of consequence that runs into it, so that the proper course cannot be mistaken. The guide says that the branch left runs down to lac Rouge (17) [Red lake] and is one and a half days —and also three carrying places, but I could never learn there was any passage to portage de l'Isle by the way of lac Rouge — paddle from the branch to the lac and the lac at the other end of this portage, he says, is nearly dry when the water is low.

Tuesday 20 *July.* From the end of the portage fell into the river again and went ¾ mile between two stony points. From hence 1¼ miles to portage à la Chutte [Lower Manitou falls], a cataract of about 30 feet descent; portage on right side and 106 yards over. From the portage went S.W. by W. 1½ miles to a rocky point on left. Then W.S.W. in a lac [Barnston lake] 2 miles a small island of stones on right and bay on each side, to a strait. In it ¾ mile to a rapid [between Barnston lake and Wegg lake]. Passed it easily, then left an island on left and took a narrow channel on right. 300 yards to another rapid. Passed it as before. Then a lac; (18) [Wegg lake]; course 3 miles to a point on right, a high point of woods laying opposite. Then coasted along same shore 1½ miles to a point, passing a small rocky island on left. Then traversed 1½ miles to a rocky point on left, a small island opposite to it and bay on right. Course N.W. by W. Then turned the point and went west ¾ mile to a rocky point on left, then to a rock on left W. by S. 3

(17) For John Long's explanation of the name Red lake see appendix.

(18) Wegg lake commemorates Samuel Wegg, Governor, Hudson's Bay Co. 1782-99; present Wegg lake and Barnston lake are considered as one and called Governor Wegg's lake on Arrowsmith's map, 1796. In 1872 Dr. R. Bell named Young, Lount, Barnston, Ball, Maynard and Jarvis lakes after members of his survey party J. C. Young, George Lount, Alex Barnston, Alfred S. Ball and Wm. Maynard and after E. W. Jarvis, C. E.

miles passed an island on left, then W.S.W. 3 miles to a high point on left appearing like a narrow strait, but afterwards into a river. From the strait mentioned turned upon the right and went 8 miles to a lac [Wilcox lake] in which S.W. 3 miles to a lofty point of an island on left; passed a deep bay on each side. Coasted along the island about ¾ mile. From it S.W. 1½ miles to a low rocky point on right, passing two small islands on left. From thence to a grassy point on same side, near ¼ mile. Turned the grassy point and traversed ½ mile to a point on left turned the point and entered a river again and went 1 mile to a rapid [just below Wilcox lake]. Shot it by leaving one small island on right and another near it on left. Then went S. by W.to a point on left 1 mile, then 2½ miles farther to portage de l'Isle [Upper Oak falls], 22 yards over a rock, being a small isle in the middle of the river. The guide says this is the first time that ever the canoe passed this cataract in this manner, the usual manner being to discharge on a rock on the right and make a portage on the main, which portage, he says is called La Pante. About 20 yards from which two small islets. Shot the remainder of the rapid, leaving the two islands on the left. ¼ mile to portage Galais, near 70 yards over a rock. From the end of this portage S.E. by S. 1½ miles to portage à la Pointe [Lower Oak falls] 46 yards over a rock; portage on right side and island on left in the middle of the channel. From the portage into a lac [Oak lake]. Course from the portage S.S.W. ½ mile to the smooth rocky point of an island on right, then S.W. 2 miles a traverse to the point of a small rocky isle on left, lac spacious to the right. Then same course to an opening, which appears like a river, distant 2 miles. Turned the point on left and entered a river again, passing a small rocky island on right and leaving a long straight view behind us. Went in it 2½ miles to a rapid, passing it on left side, then 5¾ miles to a small lac. Crossed it S.S.E. 1 mile to a strait. In it ¼ mile to the extreme point on right. Then entered a lac [Maynard lake], turned the point on right and went W.S.W. 1 mile to a point on left (long view to the left entering the lac), leaving a rocky island on right. Turned the point and traversed S.W. by W. 3½ miles to a low point on right. Passed

four large islands on left and one on right then W.S.W. 1¼ miles to a point of stones. Here we found the chief mentioned the 18th with another chief and three young men, who had a fine stock of deer's flesh and which they were desirous of trading. This was most acceptable to us as the men had began upon their last sack of corn. The old man who had returned affected much regard for me as being a Sagonosh [Englishman] and was honoured in an extraordinary manner, by their discharging their fuzees. These Indians and those who we left on the 17th promised me that in case I wintered hereabouts they would trade their furs with me and I have some reasons to think them sincere.

Wednesday, 21 July. On examining the meat traded yesterday I find we have full allowance for four days without touching the corn. The point of stones mentioned yesterday is the beginning of a wide strait with a very strong current. Went in it ¼ mile to portage la Chutte [Maynard falls]; 170 yards over a rock on right side. The place for reloading the canoe is exceeding bad, the water being much agitated by the rapid. From the portage entered a lac (19) [Tide lake].....crossed a bay to a strait [betweeen Tide lake and Ball lake].....Then in a lac [Ball lake].....spacious on both sides.....to a rock point on left, being the entrance into a strait [between Ball lake and Indian lake]. Went in it near 2 miles to a lac [Indian lake]. S.W. 6 miles to a rocky point on left, several bays on left. Then S.W. by W. along

(19) John Long wintered here 1778-79. Shabeechevan is the name he applies to the lake. T. Fawcett, D.L.S. in Dept. Intr. Rep. 1885, part II. p. 32 spells Esquabatchewan and explains that "the water at the [Maynard] falls runs round in a circle, causing a constant ebb and flow of about three feet, giving rise to the Indian name which literally means high and low water. The North West Co. had a post here at the coalition as had the Hudson's Bay Co. later. Bishop Anderson, who ascended English river in 1852 refers to the latter post in "The Net in the Bay". Prof E. L. Bruce in Ont. Dept. of Mines Rep. 1924 Part IV p. 2, mentions the discovery in 1922 of the remains of an old post. "The walls of the main building can be traced as low mounds and show the size was about 40 to 50 feet, with two main rooms, each with a large fireplace. The stones for the fireplaces were obtained from the outcrop of granite at the portage about half a mile to the east. Another building of nearly equal proportions was found near this large one. Poplar trees, 18 inches in diameter, growing in the place once occupied by the building show that the building must have fallen down many years ago".

south shore to a point on right, which appears like a narrow strait. Passed between a rocky island on left and several on right 2 miles, then S.S.W. to a point on left 2 miles. Lac narrow. Turned the point, leaving several smooth rocks on right and a wide channel behind us. Then entered a strait in which went 7 miles to a lac [Lount lake]. Turned first point on right and entered a bold channel like a river. Went in it 3 miles, when it opens into a lac. W. 4½ miles to a point of wild rice on right; two bays on right and one on left, several islands on right. Then west 3 miles to the point of an island on right; islands on both sides. Then traversed S.E. by E. 2 miles to a point on left; deeep bay on right. One island on left. Then coasted along the island W.N.W. 1½ miles to first point on left, from which crossed west 1¼ miles to the opposite shore, along which 1¼ miles to first point on right. Encamped. Met a family today in two canoes from whom we traded a moose-skin tent and yesterday one cub beaver and two cub otters.

Thursday, 22July. From the point on right W. by S. 6 miles to a strait between two islands. Passed three bays on right and some large islands on left. Turned the point on right, another laying opposite. Went along the end of the island 1½ miles and then turned upon the right in a kind of strait to a grassy point on left 1 mile Turned the point which is rocky and entered a strait, having an opening and islands on right. Went in it 2¾ miles, when it opens into a kind of broken lac [Separation lake].....islands on each side and spacious lac on right. Then west 1 mile to an island which I named Isle des Framboises, on account of its being covered with most delicious ones. Here the Indians we met yesterday and who returned with us pointed out to us a shorter way to portage de l'Isle, than the one we were in, which goes directly to portage de Rats [Rat portage]. On arriving there, we must descend down Winnipeg river a considerable distance to portage de l'Isle, whereas the one he pointed out is much shorter. This intelligence he inadvertently left fall. As Indians are in the way to portage des Rats, he was in hopes of raising a drink. Luckily our trusty guide was acquainted with the way and

though his wife refused to go with us he left her and two children to continue in our company.....a long rapid [Separation rapid] which was named by Monsr St Germaine de la Pouvent and on which we were nearly trapped, for, attempting to shoot it, we were not aware of a sudden descent it has nearly across the river over a smooth black rock, which is covered with water and is diffcult to be seen. We had just time enough to gain the shore, after which all debarked except two to shoot the canoe. This rapid may be avoided by passing on the other side of the island on left, but there you have a portage..... to a small rapid, where the channel is narrowed by large white stones projecting from the left shore. From the rapid went 2 miles to portage des Chênes [Upper Kettle falls] named by our men. 260 yards over on right side and after cutting away some windfalls etc., a good road. Near the bottom of the rapid are two islands. Left them on the right and in about 1 mile from the rapid another island. Left it and a bay on left. From the island went ½ mile to a low rocky point on right. Then traversed to the opposite shore and discharged on a rock at the head of a cataract. Portage [middle Kettle falls] was called by St. Germaine des Trembles, 247 yards over and, being cleared, a good road. Exactly opposite is portage de Petite Rivière [Lower Kettle falls] named by our men; 500 yards over a good road. From this we were introduced to a swamp in whch went ¾ mile and fell into the river again. The junction is a fine fishing place for sturgeon, etc. From the end of la Petite rivière went 8 miles to the the mouth of a small river on right called la rivière de Beau Soleil [Sturgeon river]. Its left shore has a stony point which our men called pointe au Baptême, on account of my paying my baptême here.

Friday, 23July. From the little river mentioned yesterday, went 6 miles when our river opens wide in the form of a long lac, [One man lake]. Then in it 9 miles farther, when it has a rounder form with many islands in it.....came to a rapid called de l'Isle [foot of One man lake] a small rocky island being on right, shot it with ease, having plenty of water. From the rapid N.W. by W. 1½ miles to point on left. Then turned upon the left ¾ mile to a smooth rocky isle in

the channel. From this a lac [Umfreville lake] (20) . . . Then entered the river again, went in it 2½ miles to rapid Carribou [Deer falls]; portage 47 yards over a smooth rock on right.....fell into rivière Ouinipique and.....a red rock being portage de l'Ile, [Boundary falls on some maps] the place of our destination.

[Umfreville remained at portage de l'Ile for two days, during which St. Germaine and he wrote up their diaries. On Monday they left for Grand Portage. Soon after entering lake of the Woods, Raymond, the "governail" became uncertain of the route and, to avoid missing the canoe that was on its way to meet them, Umfreville decided to return to Rat Portage and await it there].

(20) So named after the explorer in 1925.

EXTRACTS FROM THE WRITINGS OF OTHER EARLY TRAVELLERS THROUGH THE REGION

FROM DUNCAN CAMERON "The Nipigon Country" in Masson, Bourgeois, Vol II, pp. 242 and 244

One Monsieur Clause, who was afterwards killed by the Indians at Fond du Lac, was the first [trader] who passed Lake Nipigon in the year 1767 and got as far as Nid du Corbeau (1), which was then considered a great distance indeed. He and his men were almost starved to death and reduced to eat several packs of beaver to preserve their lives.

This was a poor encouragement to others; however, some years after other traders came to Lac la Savanne [Savant lake], Nid de Corbeau and lac du Pichou where several men were starved to death at different times. In lac la Savanne, no less than four out of eight starved in one year.....No one attempted to go beyond Nid du Corbeau and lac du Pichou [Cat lake] till the year, 1793, when I sent one Mr. Turcot with three well-mounted canoes to penetrate as far north as he possibly could, but they got no farther than Big lake. None.....got any farther till I came to this quarter myself in the year 1796, when the English were again carrying all before them. Since that time I got above one hundred leagues farther than Big Lake and met with the York traders.

(1) Meaning Crowsnest; Arrowsmith's map, 1796 and later maps place it between Sturgeon lake and Savant lake; present day Indians do not know a lake of the name; possibly it is modern Crow lake; crows nest in the region.

From a manuscript diary of DANIEL HARMON, 1807-08

Saturday, 25 July, 1807. This afternoon I in company of three canoes left Fort William and came and encamped on an island in lake Superior and am thus far on my way to Sturgeon lake.

Saturday, 1 August, 1807. Pointe à la Gourgaine, [Gourgane —horse-bean; the point is at the north entrance to Nipigon strait] In the morning Messrs Haldane, Leith, Chaboillez, McLoughlin, Russel and Dougall Camerons and Roderick McKenzie overtook and came on with us.

Monday, 3 August, 1807. First long portage in the Nipigon road. Yesterday we separated with Messrs. Chaboillez and Leith who are gone to winter at the Pic and Michipicotton.....and today we left lake Superior.

Friday, 7 August, 1807. Fort Duncan which stands on the north side of Nipigon lake.....

Sunday, 9 August, 1807. In the morning we sent off three canoes but in the afterpart of the day, some of the people returned with the melancholy tidings that one of their companions was drowned in going up a small rapid when the canoe he was in upset, but all the others saved themselves by swimming ashore. Also the most of the property they had on board was lost.

Thursday, 13 August, 1807. In the morning Mr. Haldane, the Doctor and myself, etc., left fort Duncan, where Mr. McKenzie will pass the ensuing winter and where we separated also with the Mr. Camerons as there we took different routes they northward and we westward.

Monday, 24 August, 1807. Portage du Fort, Sturgeon lake. Where we arrived yesterday; and this morning Mr. Haldane left us to

continue his route to Red Lake, but the Doctor and I, with four labouring men are to winter at the other end of this, and for which place we shall leave this tomorrow.

Tuesday, 1 *September*, 1807. Our people are putting up houses for us to pass the winter in. Here we take whitefish pretty plentifully. The lake may be about forty miles long and from one to five broad. The country after leaving lake Superior lies low and pretty level. There are no mountains to be seen and but few hills. However there are a great number of small lakes and ponds and rivers and brooks and has been a beaveer country, but now these animals are become scarce for they have been continually hunted by the natives for more than a hundred years.

Saturday, 3 *October*, 1807. Sent people to the other side of this lake to make a fishery of whitefish, pike and carp..... They are the principal food of the people of this part of the world. Yet there is no want of moose and cariboux hereabouts. The Indians who frequent this post are Sauteux and Muscagoes.

Monday, 9 *November* 1807. Our people are returned from the fishery.....

Monday, 28 *December*, 1807. Doctor McLaughlin.....has gone to pay a visit to Mr. Haldane at Red lake.

Tuesday, 24 *May*, 1808. As this place will not be kept during the summer, I therefore have sent our people with the goods we have remaining on hand to the next establishment, lac Seul, which place lies about four days march from this.

Thursday, 9 *June*, 1808. Portage du Fort and where we shall wait the arrival of the people of this department and then continue our route with them to Fort William.....

Wednesday, 22 *June* 1808. Fort Duncan. The people for whom we were waiting at Portage du Fort arrived on the 12th and the day following we all set off for this place, where we arrived this afternoon.

Saturday, 25 *June*, 1808. Yesterday we left Fort Duncan and have come and encamped on an island in lake Nipigon where we shall remain a few days to fish for trout which are plentiful and of an excellent quality.

Thursday, 7 *July*, 1808. Yesterday morning I arrived at Fort William.

From JOHN LONG'S "Voyages and Travels of an Indian Interpreter and Trader", London, 1791.

John Long spent two years from 1777 to 1779 in the region north of lake Superior. His movements are narrated in the extracts from his book which follow. The words are his own:—

I made an excursion to Montreal where I met with an offer to go to an interpreter to the north.....On the fourth of May, 1777 I left Montreal with two large birch canoes, called by the French maître canots, having ten Canadians in each..... On the 4th of July we arrived at Pays Plat, on the northeast side of the Lake [Superior], where we unpacked our goods and made the bales smaller having by the Indian accounts, one hundred and eighty carrying places to the part where I intended to winter.....On the 21st we embarked..... I engaged twenty of the Chippeways to accompany me in passing by land the Grande Côte de la Roche [Long portage] which is the route that all the traders are obliged to take, on account of the great cataract [Cameron falls] which is reckoned six hundred feet in height near the entrance of the Nipegon River. This journey is extremely fatiguing to the men who are obliged to ascend a steep hill with considerable burdens, and for this reason it is customary to rest two or three days to recruit their strength.

We left la Grande Côte de la Roche in good spirits, and continued our voyage to Lake Alemipigon..... We stayed here ten days encamped by the side of the lake.....On the first of August we departed with fifteen Indians not only to serve as guides but to assist us across the portages. We lived on animal food and roots, reserving our corn and hard grease for the winter. Every evening at sunset we encamped and got into our canoes at break of day. We continued our march to Lac Eturgeon or Sturgeon lake . . . . . .

On the twenty fifth of September we arrived at *Lac la Mort or Dead Lake*, situate to the [northwest] north east of Lake Alemipigon.

This lake is about sixty miles in circumference, the land low and swampy and the water very unpleasant to the palate: it has been much frequented by the Indians, for, during the time I wintered there, I discovered no less than thirty five different roads, about three feet wide, leading from the wood to the Lake side; it abounds with fish.....

Close to the lake side,.....we erected a loghouse, thirty feet long and twenty feet wide, divided into two apartments, into which we deposited our goods.....

In the beginning of January, 1778 our provisions run short..... the men became disheartened; this induced me to propose a journey to Lake Manontoye, where we knew *Mr. Shaw*, a brother trader, had wintered, to endeavour to procure some wild rice, which the Indians told me grew in the swamps at that place.....I put on my snow shoes and persuaded an Indian and his wife, who were with me occasionally and had accidentally come in from the hunt with six hares, to accompany me, promising them payment in rum at my return; they agreed to go and it was very fortunate they did, as I could not have found the way without a guide.

We set off with the six hares and travelled four days without killing anything.....

On our arrival at Lac Eturgeon, as the weather was bad, we encamped three days, which gave me an opportunity of making some observations on this Lake, which I could not do when I passed it in my way to Lac la Mort.

When arrived within about six miles of the lake [Manontoye], we met a small party of Indians who alarmed us by an account of a dreadful confusion among their tribe, occasioned by the Hudson's Bay Savages having killed three of their band; and they said they believed Mr. Shaw had fallen a sacrifice to their fury.....

Mr. Shaw's house might very properly be styled a fort, being secured by high pickets which made it difficult for the Indians to approach it and he had taken the precaution to fasten the outer gate as

well as the door. I told the chief it was not my intention to interfere, that I passed accidentally in my way to Lac le Rouge and should only stay to refresh myself. This information pleased him exceedingly as he knew Mr. Shaw had only one man in the house, the rest, with the interpreter, being out in search of provisions, so that at my departure there would not remain force sufficient to obstruct the proceedings. . . . . .

I remained with Mr. Shaw until the return of his men and took an Indian slay, loaded with wild rice and dried meat and two of his Canadians to assist me.....

Lake Manontoye, where Mr. Shaw wintered is not so large as Lac Eturgeon: it abounds with excellent fish and wild fowl; and oats, rice and cranberries grow spontaneously in the swamps. There are very few islands on it.

A few days after my return to Lac la Mort, a band of Savages arrived from the Red Lake, called by the Indians, Misqui Sakiegan, and some from Lake Shabeechevan or the Weed lake [Tide lake] about five days march beyond lake Manontoye. Red Lake is so called on account of a remarkable circumstance which happened to two favourite warriors of the Chippeway nation, who were hunting by the lake side, and as they were looking out for game perceived at some distance an enormous beast, that appeared much larger than any animal they had ever seen; his pace was slow and heavy and he kept constantly by the water side. They followed him as close as they thought prudent determined at all hazards to use their best endeavours to kill him. As they approached, they had a clearer view, and discovered that his body was covered with something like moss; this increased their surprise and after consulting together, they continued advancing toward the beast, and fired large shot, without appearing to make any impression. They fired again with as little effect as before; then retreated some distance sat down and sung their war songs, addressing themselves to the Master of Life, and desiring his assistance to enable them to conquer it, as they believed it to be the Matchee Manitoo, or bad spirit

in the shape of this monster. They then got up and pursued him, both firing at the same time; the shot proved successful and caused the animal to turn round, which induced them to keep up their fire till the beast jumped into the water and they lost sight of him. From the circumstance of his blood dyeing the water red, this lake has ever since been called the Red lake. . . . . .

From Red Lake to Lake le Sel, or Salt Lake [lac Seul], by the Indian accounts, there are fourteen short portagees, and twenty-two creeks. Lake le Sel is very small, and the water shallow and muddy. It does not exceed three miles in length. There are few fish except eels, cat fish and pike, but it abounds with musquashes and wild fowl. From this lake to Lake Caribou, or Rein-Deer Lake [Deer lake] is eight days march across five creeks and three portages.

Lake Caribou, or in the Indian language, Ateeque, is about thrty miles long, with several small islands, resembling the Mille Isles, in the River St. Laurence, above Montreal. The water is deep and clear and the bottom hard. It abounds with large trout, white fish, pickerill, pike and sturgeon. It is surrounded by a chain of high mountains. Some years ago a French trader settled here, but of late it has been deserted. The Indians reckon it ten days march to Lake Schabeechewan, across thirteen portages, and as many creeks; but as I wintered there the following year, though I went to it by a different track, [Wabigoon river]. I shall not describe it till I give an account of the occurences of that time. From Lake Schabeechevan to Lake Arbitibis are three small lakes, eight creeks, and five portages. Lake Arbitibis is very large and the surrounding land rocky and mountainous. This Lake furnishes the Indians with fish and wild fowl. The acquatic race abound in this part of the world, doubtless so appointed for the numerous tribes of Savages, who are obliged to resort to the lakes for food. At the northern extremity of this Lake is a large fall of water, which flows from a river whose current is rapid for about twenty miles. On this river there are also dangerous rapids; the land upon its banks is low, and the beach sandy. From Lake Arbitibis to Crow's-nest Lake, called by the Indians Cark Sark Sakiegan, is a short distance. The

utmost circumference of Crow's-nest Lake scarcely exceeds two leagues, and is only remarkable for a small island in the middle, with about forty high palm trees, where the crows build their nests, which is called Cark Cark Minnesey. The fish in this lake are very indifferent, being mostly of the sword-fish kind, which the Indans seldom eat. From this Lake is a long portage, and about a half way a high mountain. At the end of the carrying place is a river called Cark Cark Seepi, or Crows' River, which runs with a strong current for about thirty miles, from Neeshshemaince Sakiegan, or the Lake of the Two Sisters; so called from the meeting of two currents, which from one grand discharge into the lake. The Hudson's Bay Indians hunt here with great success. At the end is a carrying place about a quarter of a mile long that leads to a remarkably narrow river, which runs with a strong current for about fifty leagues; the land on each side being very high, makes the navigation dark. The Indians in going up this river travel as light as possible, to enable them to combat the strong current. The Hudson's Bay Company are supplied with a considerable quantity of peltry from this river.

The severity of the season was sensibly felt by Mr. James Clark, belonging to the same company, who had five men starved at Lake Savan, a bad lake for fish, about three hundred and fifty miles from my wintering ground.....

Early in the month of April [1778], I received a letter from Monsieur Jacques Santeron at Lake Schabeechevan, in the same employ as myself, to inform me that he was tired of being a servant, and thinking his labours not sufficiently rewarded, had determined to make a grand coup, having a number of fine packs which he purposed selling to the Hudson's Bay Company, that he should leave his wintering ground next morning with four birch canoes and would write further particulars on bark, which he would nail against one of the crooked trees at the foot of the Grand Rapid.....I was disappointed as I expected him to pass my wintering ground on his return to Pays Plat.

Cranberry Lake, so called from the great quantity of cranberries growing in the swamps. We stopped here two days to refresh ourselves after the great fatigue we had undergone in struggling against the rapids. Being sufficiently recovered and having nothing to detain us we proceeded to a short carrying place called La Grande Côte de la Roche, near the entrance of the Nipegon River, which is a high ridge of rocks that must be passed to avoid the great cataract which I mentioned in my former voyage.

.....From La Grande Côte de la Roche, we proceeded to *Lac le Nid au Corbeau* or Crow's Nest Lake, which is about two hundred miles in circumference and supplied by a number of small rivers; there are also several islands on it which furnish the Indians with great plenty of wild fowl; bears are also found here in abundance and a surprising number of beaver dams, running in a crooked direction about ten miles. The Chippeways hunt here and find a great deal of game.

The reader will observe that in the first voyage I gave an account of another Crow's Nest Lake, which is very small, with an island in the middle with high palm trees; in such an extent of country it is not surprising that there should be two places of the same name.

During our stay a band of Indians arrived from Lake Arbitibis who probably were dissatisfied with the trader dealt with and intended to go to Michillimakinac.....

The next day we took our leave and pursued our journey to *Shecarke Sakiegan* or the Skunk's Lake which runs with a strong current. In the fall it abounds with geese and ducks; here we hunted one day and with good success. The next morning at break of day we embarked and had favourable weather till we arrived at Lake Schabeechevan or the Weed Lake. This lake is about one hundred and eighty miles in circumference and full of small islands; it abounds with fish and the swamps are full of wild rice and cranberries; it is about six days march from Lac la Mort.

Conceiving it my duty to exert my best endeavours to prevent the loss of so much property to my employers, I engaged Kesconeek the chief and twenty Savages, under promise of being satisfied for their trouble, to conduct me to the crooked trees. We went off with the utmost expedition and in a few days arrived at the spot, where I saw the piece of bark, as he described and the following words written with charcoal, "Adieu, mon cher ami, je prends mon départ avec courage et j'attends une bonne vente pour ma pelleterie. De bon coeur je vous souhaite la prospérité; faites mes compliments à tous mes amis— Au revoir mon cher compagnon.

Having perused it, and explained it to the chief; he said he was a bad spirit and that as he had been gone six days before our arrival, it would be impossible to overtake him, as he could not be far from the entrance of the North River, leading to Hudson's Bay.....

We baled up our peltry and on the 23rd of May left Lac la Mort with four small birch canoes richly laden with skins of beavers, otters, martens, minx, loup serviers, beaver eaters, foxes, bears, etc.....

On the 2nd day of July we arrived at *Portage Plain*, so called on account of its being a barren rock, near a mile long, joining to Lake Alemipigon.....We continued our journey to Lac Eturgeon..... We arrived at Pays Plat on the 10th of August.....I delivered my cargo of furs, consisting of about one hundred and forty packs, in good condition and loaded the canoes with the fresh goods; then taking leave of my companions, prepared for my departure for the Inlands, to winter another year among the Nipegon Savages.....

On the 15th of August I left Pays Plat, with four birch canoes and the same men who wintered with me at Lac la Mort and arrived at Rivière la Pique [Jackfish river], which runs into Lake Superior, this river is very crooked for about seven miles and extremely deep; it abounds with fish, particularly pike, from which it takes its name....

We proceeded on our voyage and arrived at a short carrying place, called *Portage la Rame*, where we encamped for nine days, being windbound.....The wind proving favourable, we proceeded to

The lake was an unfortunate situation to my employers last year, when one of their servants, Jacques Santeron went off with a valuable cargo. On my arrival, I looked out for the house he had erected, but could not discern the least trace of it; probably he was so elated he made a feu de joie on the prospect of being his own master. At the extremity of this lake is a fall of water, which runs from a river of the same name, and has a direct communication with the waters leading from Fort Albany within the boundaries of the Hudson's Bay territories; it is about thirty days march across nineteen portages and creeks, besides fourteen rapids, which are a great hindrance to the journey.

Having secured the canoes and refreshed my men with good soup, I left them in charge of the goods and took two Indians to shew me in a convenient place to build a house, which having fixed on, a building was erected, fifty feet long and twenty feet wide, divided into two separate apartments, one for merchandise and the other for common use.

An Indian arrived and informed me that Mr. Joseph la Forme a brother trader who was settled at Lac le Sel, was killed by a Savage.....On this information I dispatched six Indians, with a trusty Canadian, to endeavour to secure the property, in which they fortunately succeeded and brought away all the peltry, merchandise etc., and the deceased trader's men, whom I engaged in my service.

The latter end of January, 1779, a band of the Rat Nation arrived, belonging to *Shekarkistergoan* or the Skunk's head lake, which is between Lake Nipegon and Lake Manontoye. They brought me provisions and furs, which I bartered for.

[Long goes on to relate the Indians told him that Mr. Fulton then had a post at Shekarkistergoan and that Charles Janvier one of his men when starving on a fishing trip had killed an Indian and then had a post at Shekarkistergoan and that Charles Janvier one become cannibals; later Janvier killed St. Ange].

In the month of February I had a visit from a trader, dressed in a smoked leather shirt; who was accompanied by three Indians, and had been absent five days from Fort Albany. He said he was induced to come from a motive of curiosity to see me, not having heard of any person wintering so far inland before, except the servants belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company.

[In April Umfreville left his winter quarters for Pays Plat.]

We continued our voyage without meeting with any occurrence worth relating till we arrived at the *Skunk's River*.....We pursued our journey to *Lac le Nid au Corbeau*, where we killed some wild geese and ducks, which at this season of the year have a fishy taste, Here we rested two days to enable us to pursue the remainder of our voyage with greater vigour. The third morning, at daybreak, we embarked, and arrived at La Grande Côte de la Roche.

We proceeded to Cranberry Lake, where we caught some fish and picked as many cranberries as we could convenieently carry; from thence we continued our route to Portage la Rame, where we were again wind-bound for some days; but during our stay we had not a single visitor to disturb us. At length the wind proving favourable, we proceeded to rivière la Pique.....We continued our voyage to Pays Plat, where we stayed some days in the society of traders, who had also wintered in the inlands, and others who arrived with goods to supply those who were engaged to return; but as my time was expired, I returned to Michillimakinac.

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